



THE INDEPENDENT

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30-PAGE NEWS SECTION



24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW

What's wrong
with Puttnam?

WEDNESDAY REVIEW FRONT

Julie Burchill
in the hot seatYOU ASK THE
QUESTIONS

'The only sound was of crying and shutters clicking'

ON another day some of the Quinn family men might look fierce, with their pierced ears and eyebrows, flamboyant tattoos and haircuts so short that you can see the scalp. But no man can look fierce with tears running down his face and so yesterday there were no fierce men on this saddest of occasions in the village of Rasharkin in Northern Ireland.

It seemed a long funeral but, in fact, it began and ended on time. At 9.45am the family started to spill out of the white single-storey home in a cul-de-sac just inside the village proper. It is here that the boys' grandparents live and it was here that their eldest grandson Lee was staying on Sunday night when a firebomb attack killed his three younger brothers in nearby Ballymoney. Now Lee, 13, would be among the youngest to walk out on to the driveway, only to turn back and look inside the open front door.

The coffins emerged one by one, until they were lined up outside the house: three small white containers with gold handles and a gold cross on top. Each lid also carried a photograph of the boy inside: Richard, 11; Mark, 10; and Jason, who had his ninth birthday last week. The only sound was of crying and shutters clicking from the dozens of photographers gathered in the middle of the cul-de-sac.

The men swapped places under the coffin. Christine's estranged husband, John Dillon, carried each coffin in turn as he walked along the road that finally left the village. Here, the procession stopped, and each coffin was loaded into the hearse. The trip to the Church of Our Lady and St Patrick in Ballymoney had begun.

The mass began at around 11am. The church is large and made of beautiful grey stone, but could not hold the hundreds who came, so some sat outside. Continued on page 2

BY ANN TRENEGAN
in Rasharkin

began to walk down to the main road and the photographers followed.

Progress was slow. "Isn't it just so awfully sad," whispered one villager as they walked by. Most were crying and you did not need to know the boys or their mother Christine to do so. It was Christine who decided to bring up her children as Protestants because it was easier on the Carnaby estate, but she was Catholic, if lapsed, and gave them a Catholic funeral.

Elsewhere it would be said that it was only these murders that had stopped the Orangemen at Drumcree on their path of destruction. The province was sickened, they say, and no one had the heart for the ritual hatreds after Sunday night's attack. But in Rasharkin yesterday there was not much talk at all.

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Brown's £56bn pledge to improve public services

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

GORDON BROWN yesterday announced a £56bn three year boost to public services designed to meet Labour's election pledges and pave the way for another term in office.

The Chancellor's long-awaited Comprehensive Spending Review amounts to the first major boost to public spending since Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979.

Buoyed by the 0.5 per cent fall in the inflation to 3.7 per cent, the Chancellor of the Exchequer delighted cheering Labour MPs by announcing that the lion's share of the extra spending - £40bn - would be devoted to education and health to meet election promises on cutting NHS waiting lists and reducing class sizes.

"There will be more money but only in return for modernisation," said Mr Brown in his 29-minute announcement. The extra money will come from cutting debt, imposing a tight squeeze on public sector pay and asset sales of £1bn. "This is prudence for a purpose," he told MPs.

- £21bn boost for health
- £19bn extra for education
- Minimum income for poor pensioners
- Substantial investment in public transport
- More cash for jobs

The Chancellor's programme of higher spending on the Government's priorities will see health spending rise by 4.7 per cent in real terms and education by 5.1 per cent.

There was growing scepticism, however, about whether Mr Brown can deliver his promises. The programme will depend on sustained growth, which could prove a mirage if the economy goes into recession. "Gordon is walking on water, but there is going to be a big splash, if unemployment goes up," said one ministerial source.

The Chancellor announced a £2.5bn increase in Harriet Harman's welfare budget for pensioners, with a boost in income support for poorer pensioners which will be paid automatically as part of the state pension, and the abolition of charges for eye tests for pensioners. There

was some disappointment that free dental check-ups are not to be restored.

In addition to David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, and Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, the main Cabinet win-

ners: Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, with an extra £3bn for law and order; and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister whose housing budget will increase by £3.6bn with an extra £2bn for public transport over the next three years.

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ers from the Review were: Clare Short with an increase of £400m in international aid over the next three years to meet election pledges on the third

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, won an increase of £44m for the BBC foreign service, although his budget is being held at a standstill. There was also

a small increase of £290m over three years for the arts under Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, which the Chancellor said would be used to increase access to museums, as foreseen yesterday in *The Independent*.

The losers include Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture minister, whose budget will be cut.

But as the small print was studied, the Chancellor was being accused of using "smoke and mirrors".

The Tories were split over how to deal with the unexpected size of the increases. William Hague's office described it as a "pre-election binge" - they are spending more than expected.

Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, and Kenneth Clarke, the ex-Chancellor both claimed the higher spending was being paid for by higher taxes. But some Shadow Cab-

inet ministers accused the Chancellor of artificially inflating the increases.

The Liberal Democrats welcomed the increased spending on health and education, but said the total increases over a five-year term were 3.7 per cent compared to 4.1 per cent achieved by the Tories under John Major. The Scottish Nationalist Party also accused Labour of increasing spending less than the Tories.

By highlighting the accumulated total increases over the next three years, the Chancellor was able to demonstrate he is delivering more money than ever before to public services in a historic shift of resources, which sets New Labour's stamp on the delivery of services by the Government.

But the cash increases were less impressive when the current year's allocations were compared with the final year in 2001-2. Health spending in England is set to rise by £9bn and is likely to be £1bn higher when Wales and Scotland are included. Education spending will be £4.5bn higher in cash terms than the current year at the time of the next election.

Double gamble the Chancellor dare not lose

THE CHANCELLOR'S team billed the spending round as "bigger than the Budget". It is. Gordon Brown is making two giant gambles. The first is a financial and economic one: that the new public spending plans can be sustained in the face of a probable slowdown in the economy. The second is a political one: that the health and education industries can modernise themselves in response to the additional resources being offered, and that there will be sufficient improvement in their performance evident by the next election to justify the money they will receive.

The increase in public spending, while modest overall, will require only a modest slowdown this year and a return to reasonable growth through the rest of the life of this parliament. If growth turns out to be slower or worse than expected, if there were to be a post-millennial recession, then tax revenues would be lower than forecast and the pressure on public spending would be higher.

Since it has rejected any significant increase in borrowing, the Government would be forced either to cut back on its promised spending, or put up taxes, or both.

So in economic and financial terms Mr Brown is making a bet not just on the continued reasonable performance of the British economy, which ar-

guably is to some extent within his control but also continued reasonable growth in the world economy, which self-evidently is not.

The political bet is that British taxpayers will not just get additional bangs for their bucks, but they will also recognise this.

The additional money for the twin priorities of the Government, spending on health and education, has been closely linked to reforms which those two industries will be required to carry out in return for the funding.

The choice of priorities will

be widely applauded, for these are areas where there is not only great popular demand for improved services. They both also have a long-term influence on the country's competitive potential.

Human capital has become the most important form of capital of today's corporations, and hence the main engine of economic growth.

It would be astounding if there were not some evident improvement in both health care and education as a result of these measures. The issue is whether any improvements will be sufficiently large to be recog-

nised as such by consumers and voters. Both health and education have absorbed large quantities of additional resources (though not on this scale) in recent years yet have found themselves perceived as cutting back their services.

Can they lift their game? If they can, they will be cheered to the roof-tops. If not, it will not just be them but Mr Brown who will be in serious trouble. For if he loses either of his gambles, the prospect of a full second term for Labour - something it has never achieved in the party's history - will suddenly recede.

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HOME NEWS

A baby died after being shaken "backwards and forwards as hard as possible", a jury heard

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Netanyahu was accused of meddling in the trial of an Israeli convicted of selling poison gas to Iran

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The FTSE-100 soared 140 points to close above 6,100 following a fall in inflation for June

SPORT

Nick Faldo is fit to play in the Open at Birkdale, which starts tomorrow



French criticised over Briton's death

Breast implants get the official all-clear. But does it mean they are safe?

THEY HAVE BEEN described as a time-bomb ticking in women's chests, but silicone gel breast implants were cleared of causing disease yesterday by an independent group of experts.

However, the Government-appointed panel did warn that private cosmetic surgery clinics were pressurising women into operation without explaining the risks – a move that one professor likened to the tactics of double-glazing salesmen.

The conclusions of the seven-member Independent Review Group, set up last year, are unlikely to defuse the row about the implants that are used by an estimated 100,000 women. About 8,000 operations are carried out each year, of which two thirds are for cosmetic reasons – the vast majority done by cosmetic surgery clinics which advertise in women's magazines.

Last week the US silicone breast implant manufacturer Dow Corning announced a \$3.2bn compensation package to settle worldwide claims against it. An estimated 177,000 women have joined class actions against the company including 3,500 from Britain. Although the company denies liability, claiming that a settlement is the only way to curb legal costs mounting at \$1m a day, for many women its action has confirmed their worst fears that the implants are in fact dangerous.

In its report, the Independent Review Group seeks to quell these fears by drawing a distinction between local effects, such as hardening of the implant which gives the breast

BY JEREMY LAURENCE AND JCHARLES ARTHUR

a lumpy texture, and what it calls "distant and systemic effects" – evidence of a link with disease. Although the group found no evidence that silicone was a poison or that it caused an abnormal immune response, it said there were risks of local effects associated with any operation to implant a foreign material into the body.

Private clinics were failing to explain these risks – that could include infection, hardening and rupture requiring removal of the implant – as they were driven by commercial rather than health considerations.

Ads for breast enlargement in women's magazines also failed to alert women to the risks or make clear where information could be obtained. "Women ...

are frequently given inadequate information about the operation and any possible problems associated with it. They may be pressurised into going ahead ... before they have fully considered the advantages and disadvantages," it says.

Yet, even as the panel was publicising its findings, a Cambridge-based company, which makes testing kits for hospitals for "auto-immune" diseases like arthritis, said it had found evidence that some people may have an immune reaction to silicone gel – chemically, the polymer polydimethyl siloxane – that could explain the problems many women have reported.

Dr Mike Walker of Genesis Diagnostics claimed yesterday that in blind tests, his compa-

ny had identified people whose blood contains antibodies that react with silicone. If confirmed, the work would be remarkable in establishing an antibody reaction to an inorganic material containing no amino acids. Though the body will become inflamed where inorganic material (like glass) is present, antibodies can only target proteins.

Professor Roger Sturrock, chairman of the expert group and professor of rheumatology at the University of Glasgow, said the group had consulted patients, doctors, lawyers, researchers and the manufacturers as well as examining new and existing evidence. Silicone implants have been implicated in connective tissue diseases such as scleroderma, in which the skin becomes hard and leathery, causing stiffening of the joints; and arthritis, but the group found no evidence of any link. Women with the implants were no more likely to be ill than women without them, and there was no evidence that their children were at greater risk.

Meanwhile Professor David Sharpe, president of the British Association of Aesthetic [cosmetic] Plastic Surgeons, accused "cowboy" cosmetic clinics of operating like double glazing salesmen. Most plastic surgeons observed high standards, but that did not stop entrepreneurs setting up clinics and hiring surgeons of lesser quality who might cut corners.

"They are often filled with

surgeons who have not made the grade as consultants and they employ counsellors who are nothing more than sales

girls," he said. The pressure applied to women was revealed when 16 volunteers agreed to phone clinics for a survey in the current *British Journal of Plastic Surgery*. Professor Sharpe said: "Many of the women who made the calls for that study were still being pursued a year later. The clinics had got their numbers from directory enquiries and were phoning up to tell them about this week's special offer of an implant for £500. These are practices more in tune with double glazing sales."

Professor Sharpe said that one in seven women having implants lost sensation in their nipples which in some cases was permanent; one in ten experienced "capsular contracture" – hardening of the implant – and there were the scars to think about. Among women with older implants – inserted pre-1988 – about one in four ruptured, but in the newer type which had a thicker shell, this was less of a problem.

The vast majority of women with implants think that they are a great thing, but if you sit back objectively and listen to what can go wrong, you have to be pretty determined to have them. They are safe from a health point of view, but they are not a fashion accessory because there are problems with them, and these should be explained."

The Independent Review Group's report says measures should be introduced to ensure proper standards of care in private clinics, a "cooling off" period of several days between consultation with the surgeon and the operation and a body

should be set up to provide information on the risks and benefits that should be listed in all ads for breast enlargement.

Professor Sturrock said: "In the final analysis, the suggested link with these implants and any connective tissue disease does not stand up to scientific scrutiny. Likewise the hypotheses suggesting an abnormal immune response have not been proven." The report says there are no grounds for further epidemiological studies.

But members of the Independent Review Group said later that the health problems suffered by women with implants might be related to the reason for the implant. In 30-40 per cent of cases, implants are used to restore the shape of the breast after surgery for cancer, the psychological effects of which may explain further ill health. In cosmetic cases, women who have concerns about their body image may also be more prone to fatigue, and aches and pains.

IT IS three years since Elaine Coomber, 52, had her silicone breast implants removed, and she still suffers from chronic fatigue, joint pain and stiffness. She had the implants when she was 29 to enlarge her breasts and lived with them for 20 years. "I was told they would last a lifetime. They clearly don't," she said.

Within a year, they began to harden, the scars remained sore, and for years she experienced flu-like symptoms which she attributed to an overloaded immune system. "I didn't think there was anything I could do. The doctors said I would have to put up with it."

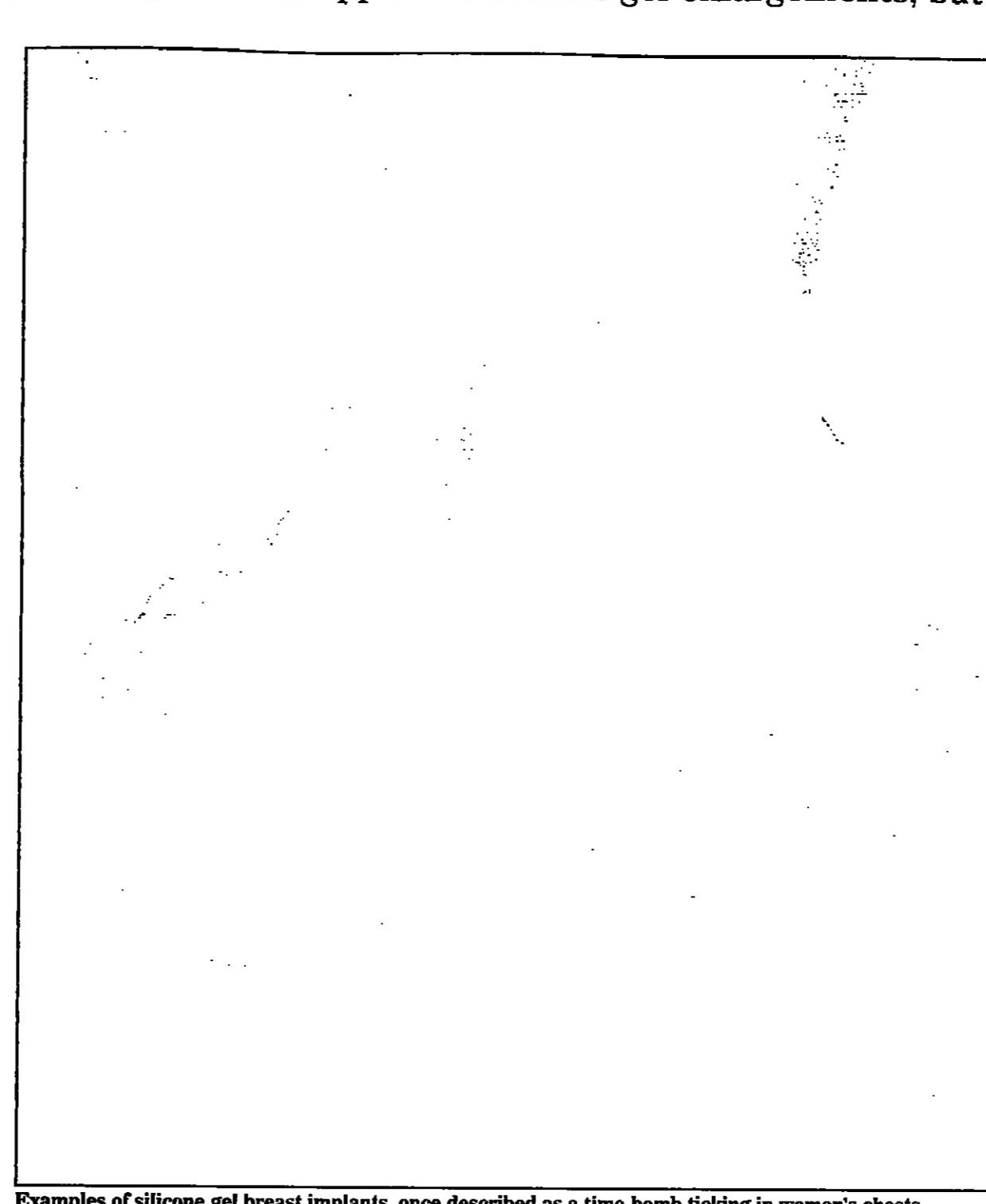
When she was 34 she had a hysterectomy to deal with persistent gynaecological prob-

lems. In the early 1990s, after reading of problems caused by breast implants, she paid £4,000 to have hers removed privately after her NHS doctor had said there was nothing wrong. She founded the pressure group Survivors of Silicone. She dismissed yesterday's report from the Independent Review Group as "totally inadequate".

"We don't need guidelines, we need legislation."

Examples of silicone gel breast implants, once described as a time-bomb ticking in women's chests

REX



Inquiry after trainee staff told to walk on hot coals

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

whether legal action is appropriate.

"Obviously something went very wrong and seven of the staff ended up with burns and some had serious burns. Some of the staff are now back at work, but others are still recuperating at home."

Eagle Star said it was the first time – and probably the last – that the firm had used them. The spokeswoman refused to say how much Eagle Star had paid for the course.

The incident happened last Thursday in the grounds of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Moat House Hotel, where Eagle Star regularly holds courses for its staff. The 10 trainees – in their 20s and 30s – were sales staff attached to Eagle Star Life, the company's life assurance arm.

"We knew that the firework was a planned part of the day but obviously we trusted the training company," said a spokeswoman.

"We are trying to find out exactly what happened and part of the review will decide



they wanted to do it," the spokeswoman said. She could not explain why the trainees continued to walk on the coals having seen some of their colleagues get burnt.

The hotel manager John Cullen, said it had not been involved in the training day. "They were in a far corner of the hotel grounds and we knew nothing about it," he said.

The first we knew was when people came in and said they had suffered burns to their feet. A number of them went to hospital.

Two of the trainees were so badly hurt that they were transferred to the specialist burns unit at the Frenchay Hospital in Bristol where they were kept overnight.

Last night, Peter Richardson, chief environmental services officer for Tewkesbury Borough Council, said a full investigation had been launched.

"We are investigating to see whether the Health and Safety at Work legislation has been broken," he said.

Officers are due to meet with senior officials from Eagle Star later today.

No one from Infinite Breakthrough Technologies, based in Bromley, south-east London, was available to comment last night.

A cosmetic whim led to disaster

CHRISTINE WILLIAMSON was 29 when she got breast implants in 1979, paying £1,900 at a clinic. "I had been breast-feeding and my breasts had reduced in size," she said. "My friends were having implants, and my husband thought they would look good."

Immediately afterwards, she was very pleased. But while patients now are recommended to have the implants changed every five years or so, she kept hers for 13 years. The only drawback she noticed then was occasional hardening, which would be dealt with every so often by a surgeon who would "squeeze" the implants, forcing a little of the filling material out to soften them again.

But one burst when a surgeon squeezed them again in 1992. Christine, who lives in Hackney, east London, was put on an 18-month waiting list for an NHS operation to repair the damage. She became ill, with aching joints and excessive sensitivity to touch. Her marriage foundered.



She went into hospital in April 1994 for the operation. "I was expecting to be back to normal. But when I woke up I found they had cut off my right breast, and removed the lymph glands up to the armpit, and a lump of silicone under the skin on top of my arm."

She thought there had been an error, and sued. In court the hospital produced evidence that the mastectomy had been required. Christine did, however, win some compensation, on the basis that the doctors did not have consent for the operation.

Christine says her advice to anyone thinking of implants: "Don't do it. Forty per cent of women will be sensitive to silicone."

'My advice to all women – Don't'



IT IS three years since Elaine Coomber, 52, had her silicone breast implants removed, and she still suffers from chronic fatigue, joint pain and stiffness. She had the implants when she was 29 to enlarge her breasts and lived with them for 20 years. "I was told they would last a lifetime. They clearly don't," she said.

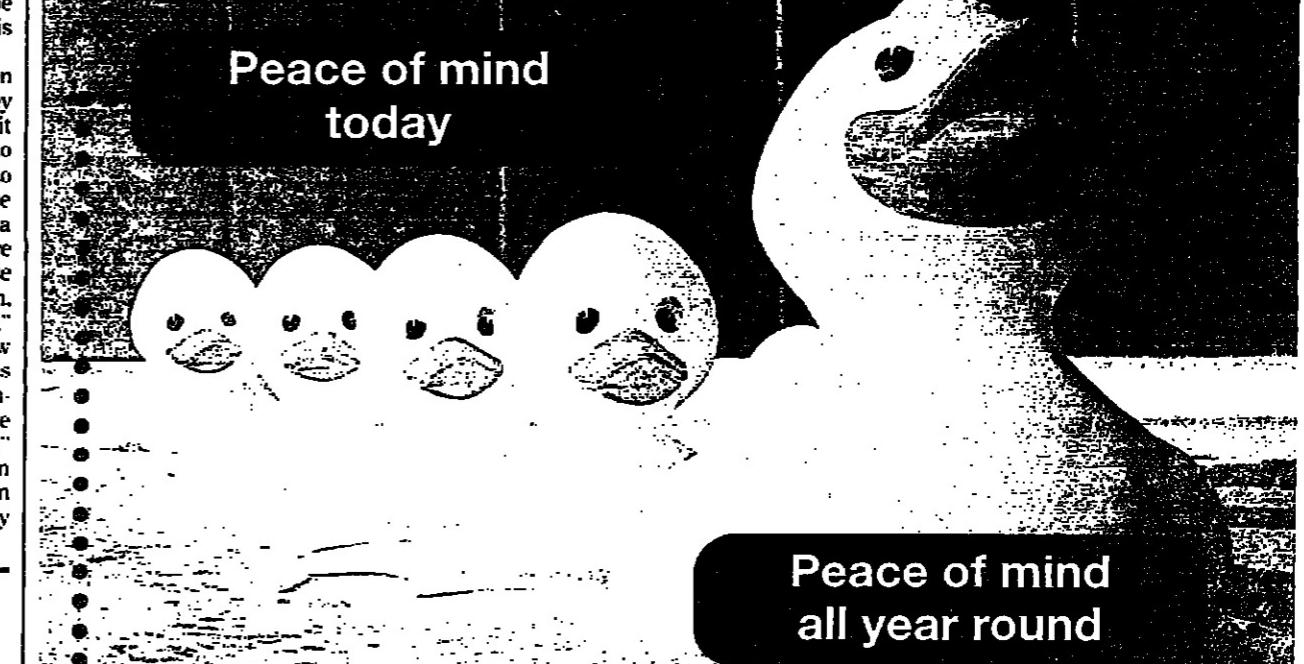
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"We don't need guidelines, we need legislation."

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Education: Firm says it is talking with six councils on setting up network of privately run state schools

American company says it can save our sink schools

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

AN AMERICAN company set up to turn round inner-city education for profit is in talks with six local authorities with a view to establishing the first of a network of privately run state schools.

Eventually the Edison Project hopes to run up to 50 British schools using methods pioneered in cities such as Boston and Detroit, its chairman, Benno Schmidt, said yesterday.

Mr Schmidt, a former president of Yale University, said his company was interested in working with individual schools and local authorities, as well as helping to run education action zones. Talks with "six or seven" authorities were exploratory, but he is hopeful that councils would take up the idea.

"We would start with a handful of schools with the option that if we did a good job we could create more partnerships in the future," he said.

"It would not make sense to do it unless under the hope and expectation that, in time, there might be a fairly large number of UK schools."

"I'm hoping my discussions with local education authorities and schools will perhaps enable us to present a somewhat clearer set of options, operating and budget options, for policymakers to consider."

Edison runs 25 schools in the United States under contract to local authorities and has plans to open 25 more by the end of the year. It was the inspiration for the Government's programme of education action zones, and was involved in bids for zones in Thameside and Surrey.

The first 12 zones will open in September, with powers to change the curriculum, teachers' contracts and the school year, under a £1m-a-year programme partly funded by business.

Children at Boston Renaissance School, which parents overwhelmingly approve. It has a waiting list of 2,000

Gail Oskin/AP

Every teacher has a laptop and each pupil has a home computer

SEVEN HILLS School in Worcester, Massachusetts, takes on children after other schools give up on them. It is one of 25 schools in deprived parts of the United States managed by the Edison Project.

Children from across Worcester can apply and this year the 19 places available drew more than 500 applicants.

Teachers at Seven Hills work longer hours than their counterparts in neighbouring state schools and have shorter holidays. There are 46 teachers - one for every 15 children.

Edison paid £3m to renovate a derelict school to provide new premises. Every teacher has a laptop and every child is provided with a computer at home.

The school is run by a board of trustees, which owns and

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

oversees the school through a separate charter company. It awarded the management contract to the Edison Project, but the American equivalent of the local authority continues to fund the school.

If Edison can educate children for less than the allowance handed out for each pupil, it makes a profit.

The first Edison schools were established just under three years ago and their success is open to question.

Undoubtedly, the schools are popular. Boston Renaissance School has 1,080 places and a waiting list of 2,000, while the Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences had to hold a lottery to choose from 1,700 applicants

for 690 places. Four out of five parents at the Boston school said the school was better than their child's previous school.

Last December, a report from Edison said that students entering its schools at the age of eight or nine improved their test scores by more than 25 per cent over two years and were better at reading than their counterparts in ordinary schools. Attendance was 94 per cent - well above the national average.

Literacy and numeracy are said to be improving rapidly in nearly all Edison schools. But a report earlier this year from the National Education Association, the largest teachers' union in the United States, said that test results from Edison schools were mixed.

Indeed, the company's claim of dramatic gains over two

years was true of only one test in one school - Dodge-Edison in Wichita. Students at Dodge-Edison did less well on another test than those in seven publicly run nearby schools with similar types of pupils.

At Washington Elementary, an Edison school in Sherman, Texas, student achievement had been falling since the project took over; the association said. "A more objective analysis of the available data shows that student achievement in a couple of Edison schools is quite good, in most it is average and in a couple very disappointing."

Since the first Edison school opened only in 1993 it may be too early to make a final judgement, but the success of other experiments involving companies running schools in the

United States is also in doubt.

Researchers from the University of Maryland found that test scores fell in the first two years in which a company called Education Alternatives ran nine inner-city schools in Baltimore. They then improved, but only to their previous level and the contract was cancelled in 1995 because it was proving too expensive.

Edison, which was set up with \$180m over six years, is not yet making a profit. This autumn, the number of schools will double to 50 and the project's managers expect it to be profitable as an organisation in the coming year when they will have 60 to 80 schools.

They insist that individual schools are making a profit, but the company has nearly 100 head-office staff.

West End shuns cool image

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

WEST END theatre has cocked a snook at the Government's association with the Cool Britannia industries of film and fashion.

The first investigation of London theatre shows it bolsters the economy with thousands of jobs, millions of pounds of tourist and industry spending, and creates big tax yields. The report, commissioned by the Society of London Theatre, was written by Tony Travers, an academic with the London School of Economics, with data compiled by MORI.

A spokeswoman said: "There has been annoyance in theatreland at the Government's obsession with Cool Britannia. This report shows how economically important West End theatre is. It is also imperative that government invests in regional theatre, which provides the seed-corn talent for the West End." The report shows the economic impact of West End theatre in 1997 was £1.075m, and that 41,000 jobs depend on it. Theatre-goers spent £433m on restaurants, hotels, transport and merchandise last year in addition to £250m on tickets, of which 11.5 million were sold. West End theatre yielded £200m in tax revenues.

The report warns the Government: "Cuts in grants ... to both regional and national theatre, opera and dance companies has gone way beyond any possible intentions to cut out waste and drive out inefficiency: the industry is suffering structural damage."

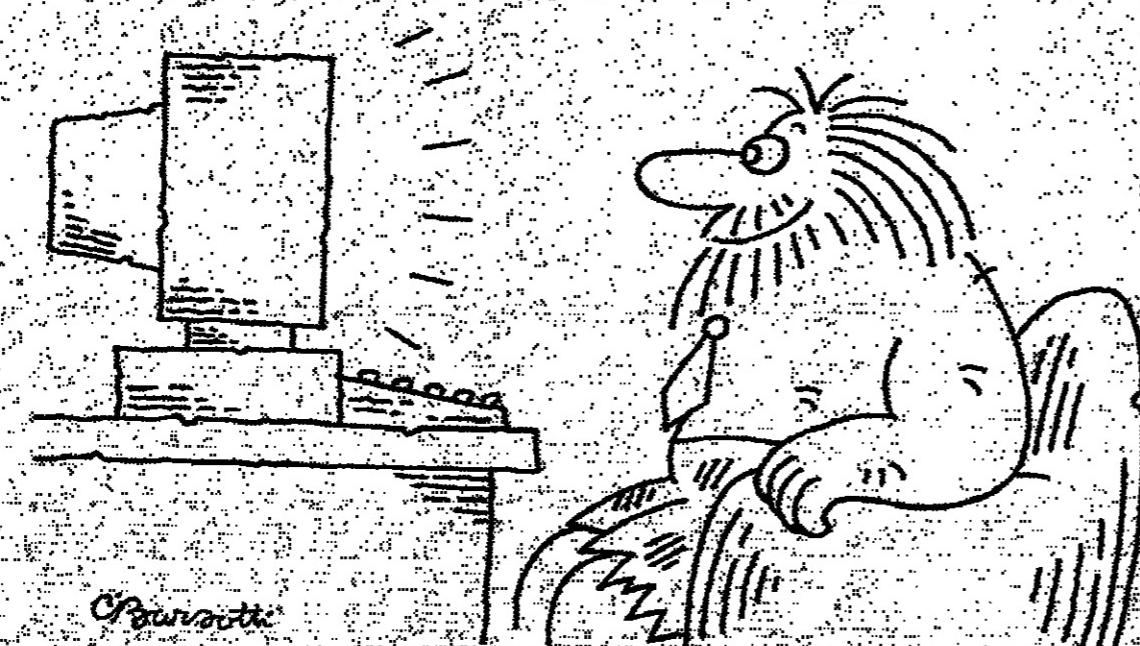
"More writers ... need to be encouraged and enabled to write plays for the theatre, rather than gravitating towards television and film."

The report also contains two messages for West End theatre itself: "In an age of highly packaged sedentary entertainment - television, computer games, the Internet - theatre must market its dynamic and fulfilling product more effectively ... There is a need for co-ordinated national and regional audience-building programmes."

It is also necessary to "clear away the red tape that accompanies investment in commercial theatrical productions and make the tax benefits ... simpler and clearer for the individual, so that more shows will get off the ground and more investors will get involved."



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THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 15 July 1998

HOME NEWS/5

Seizures fail to staunch flood of drugs

CUSTOMS OFFICERS are failing to stop traffickers swamping Britain with drugs despite record seizures, according to evidence published yesterday by the Government spending watchdog.

During the past nine years the street price of most drugs has fallen or stayed about the same when inflation is taken into account, suggesting supply has not been dented by the actions of the authorities.

The average number of people sentenced for drug smuggling since 1988 has also slumped from 1,500 a year to just over 1,000.

The National Audit Office, the organisation responsible for examining whether public bodies provide value for money, concluded that the price trends suggested that Customs and Excise have not restricted the supply of drugs.

The auditors praised customs for seizing a record amount of drugs in the year up to April 1998 when they nearly doubled their target and confiscated drugs estimated to be worth £3.5bn as well as breaking up 130 smuggling rings.

Drug seizures have risen by about 22 per cent every year for the past nine years.

But this success appears to have had no effect upon the street availability of drugs. Only 10 per cent of drugs are believed to be seized by the authorities.

Analysis of customs' data reveals that in the past nine years synthetic drugs such as Ecstasy and amphetamine have dropped by almost 40 per cent in price after inflation. Cocaine has seen a decline of nearly a fifth, while heroin and herbal cannabis have remained the same. Only cannabis resin

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

rose in cost by about a third. By contrast alcohol and tobacco have increased by about nearly two-thirds since 1989/90.

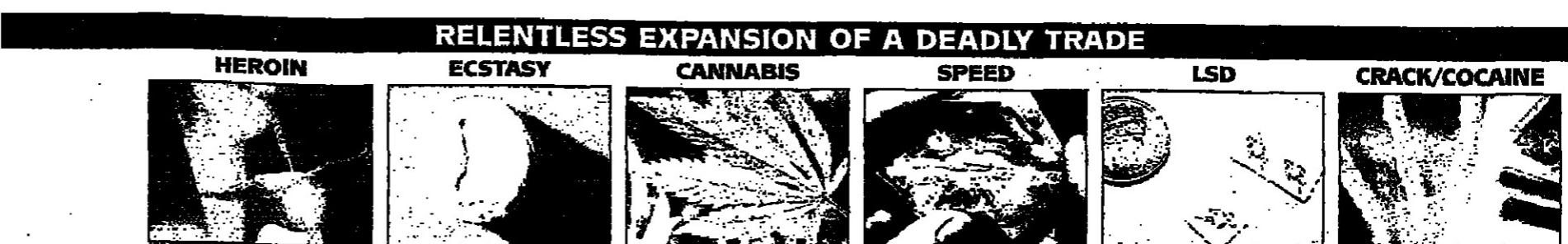
Low prices at a time when more people are taking illegal substances almost certainly shows that there is an expanding supply of drugs. The report added that while customs have been successful in jailing traffickers "other organisations may have stepped in to make up any shortfall".

Chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee, David Davis, expressed concern that while seizures were increasing, the number of people successfully prosecuted for drug smuggling had declined by almost one-third since 1980.

Part of the reason may be because customs are worried about their investigation techniques being revealed in court under new legal rules.

Mike Goodman, director of Release, the national drug agency said: "The amount of drugs getting stopped by the authorities will be in the order of 5 to 15 per cent. From the cost of drugs on the streets it would appear that this is having virtually no impact on domestic consumption."

A report published last week estimated that the illegal drugs market in Britain is worth up to £8.6bn a year. The Office of National Statistics' figures suggest that drug dealing is the biggest illegal economic activity in the UK. Problem users spent an estimated £2.2bn on drugs in 1996, regular recreational users £1.6bn, of which £1bn went on cannabis, £208m on amphetamines, £135m on cocaine and £125m on Ecstasy. Occasional



AMOUNT SEIZED by Customs in UK, 1997	WHO ARE THE USERS?	COST AND AVAILABILITY	HOW FASHIONABLE?	ARE LAW ENFORCERS WINNING THE WAR?
1,747 kg worth £145m – 135 per cent increase in 1996. Represents about 8.7 million wraps that give between one and four "hits".	Increasingly young people. Average age of users is 14-25. Evidence of new epidemic in non-metropolitan inner-city areas and outlying housing estates. Still low level of use – about 2 per cent of population. Mainly used by poor and socially excluded but becoming more mainstream.	Available nationally. Concentrated in metropolitan areas, particularly London, Manchester, and Liverpool. About 8 per cent of young people report trying it. £5 to £12 a tablet.	Lost some appeal with decline of outdoor raves. Also high-profile deaths, such as Leah Betts, along with poor quality, adulterated supplies.	No. Evidence emerging that more than ever is coming into Britain. About 80 per cent is sent from Turkey, and distributed by London-based gangs. Largely produced in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
394 kg, worth £17m – down from £23m in 1996	Still popular on club and dance scene, mainly late teens and 20s. Difficulty in getting good quality drug has pushed some users into alternatives.	A fifth of population has tried it and accounts for 80 per cent of drug use. Not considered by many as a dangerous drug and therefore happy to use relatively openly. Widely available, £15 for resin, enough for 10-20 joints.	Accepted as mainstay of most drug users – also taken in combination with other drugs. Recent rise in popularity of stronger variety known as "skunk".	Containment at best. Drop in popularity has helped, plus police and Customs operations aimed at some of big traffickers. Still large amount being brought in from Europe, particularly the Netherlands.
77,000 kg – worth £261m. About the same as the year before.	Most popular of all drugs. Used by teenagers who often use it along with other substances. Evidence that very small number are now smoking it with heroin. Many former drug users continue smoking dope as they get older. Most popular drug among middle classes.	East European pharmaceutical factories find speed more profitable than headache tablets. Also available from the Netherlands, Belgium and UK "speed factories". Costs £5 to £10 a gram.	Poor man's cocaine, often used by the lager crowd. Associated with club and dance scene because it provides energy and confidence.	The drop in the cost and rising popularity of speed suggest that the authorities are failing to halt its importation.
935kg worth £24m – up from £24.0kg the previous year.	Increasingly common among young people, particularly on club scene, used along with other drugs and has replaced some of ecstasy market. About 14 per cent of young people say they have tried the drug.	Widely available. Used by about 14 per cent of young people and popular because of low cost – £1.50 to £3 for a dose. The strength has greatly dropped over the years along with expense.	Shed some of its "old hippie" image and gaining status among younger users because of cost.	Unsure whether less coming into the country. If smugglers are evading Customs or more being made in UK.
Just 1,860 doses worth only £6,500 – down from 18,000 doses in 1997.	Still popular among people who were first introduced to drug in Sixties – otherwise known as old hippies – but also used at parties and raves. Resurgence in popularity among young people.	Increasingly available although only about 2 per cent of population have reported using it. Powder cocaine costs £50 to £70 for gram – sufficient for up to 20 lines. Crack "rocks" are about £10 to £20 each.	Very fashionable – both for celebrities, media and City folk. Crack considered a loser's drug.	No. Drug is arguably more popular than ever before and price has dropped by about a fifth in past decade. Massive profits make it very attractive to dealers.
2,074kg worth £2m – almost twice the amount of year before.	Resurgence in popularity of powder cocaine among middle classes. Also evidence that crack cocaine is making big comeback in inner cities among poor and addicts.			

IN BRIEF

Four lose Hoover flight claim

FOUR CUSTOMERS who failed to travel to America on a free flight as a result of the Hoover promotion yesterday lost compensation claims against the electrical giant. Judge Bennett ruled at St Helens County Court, Merseyside, that the firm had not committed a breach of contract. The four were claiming compensation to the amount of the cost of a ticket to the USA. But the judge ruled that because they had been offered flights on particular days and from particular airports, which they had rejected, their claims should be dismissed.

Court takes the prizes

GLASSWARE prizes were surrendered for legal safe-keeping yesterday by Trevor Montague, 44, a chartered accountant, of Crawley, West Sussex, who is being sued by Channel 4's *Fifteen-to-One* show. Producers say he won them unfairly after failing to disclose he had appeared on the show before.

Review, Page 9

Lord Sainsbury

The picture that accompanied our article "Lord Sainsbury giving a further £1m to party" in one edition on Monday was of Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover. The article in fact concerned Lord David Sainsbury of Turville.

FAMINE IN SUDAN

The situation in Sudan is worsening. Hundreds of thousands of innocent people, driven from their homes by the civil war, now face starvation.

The International Red Cross is already providing emergency aid. But it's now clear that September's harvest will be badly disrupted by the civil war and late rains. The Sudanese urgently need tools and seeds to salvage their crops and feed their children. Only your donation can provide these vital supplies.

Just £25.00 can provide enough medical aid, seeds and tools to make a real difference. Please give as much as you can. Your donation will save lives.

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Triads seek police help in kidnap clashes

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

townships of Changde and Fuzhou, on the coast of the Taiwan Strait in the eastern province of Fujian.

Police have recorded a succession of "choppings" and 15 kidnap incidents since the beginning of last year.

Jack Straw, the home secretary, revealed this week that a delegation of community leaders from Chinatown had been to see him. "They were calling for the toughening up of the system because it was being abused by Chinese illegal immigrants," he said.

One senior London police officer said: "For the first time we are actually getting co-operation from the Triads."

The wave of new Chinese immigrants emanates from the

rean passports which are surrendered to the snakeheads during the flight so that they can be used again.

On arrival in Britain the illegals seek asylum but refuse to acknowledge their nationality and invariably provide a false name.

The Met report adds: "Approximately 95 per cent of pre-

sent asylum requests from mainland Chinese citizens are found to be bogus claims [but] very few citizens are being returned to China as the embassy will not 'document' them."

Most of the Fujianese take

work in restaurants and take-aways, where their typical wage of around £150-a-week is half that paid to the mainly Can-

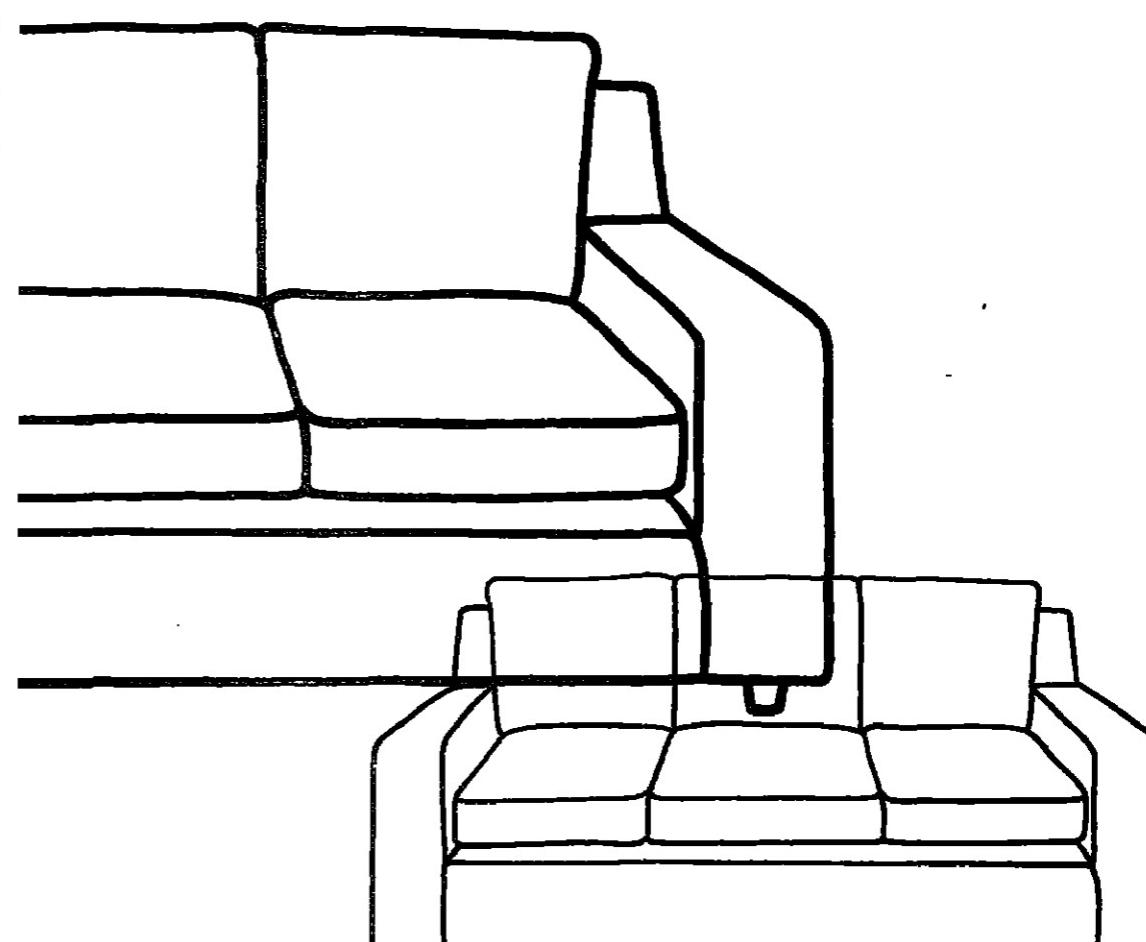
tonese established Chinese.

But many of the snakeheads are not prepared to wait for debts to be paid off. "It is common place to hear of such persons being kidnapped and beaten and held to ransom while relatives in China pay off the outstanding debt," the police report states. This criminal activity has led the Fujianese

gangs into violent rivalry with the 14K and Wo-Shing-Wo Triads, which have tried to muscle in on the smuggling rackets.

One London lawyer, Wah-Piow Tan, has 1,000 Fujianese asylum seekers as clients. Last night he called for them to be given a three-year amnesty to pay off their debts before they were deported to Fujia.

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Promise on class sizes brings £19bn

EDUCATION
By JUDITH JUDD AND BEN RUSSELL

in classrooms that were built before the First World War.

Additional spending over the next three years will take the proportion of national wealth spent on education up to 5 per cent in 2001-2, compared with 4.9 per cent in 1996-7.

Mr Blunkett said: "This is an historic day for education and for the country. These additional resources will transform standards in our education service and give everyone the opportunity to realise their full potential."

But David Willetts, the Conservative education spokesman, said that while Mr Blunkett had done well, the Government had to make up for two years in which teachers had been sacked and class sizes had risen.

The Prime Minister, who promised before the election that his priority would be education, education, education, had also pledged to reduce class sizes for five-, six- and seven-year-olds to a maximum of 30 by 2002. However, that will now be possible by 2001, ministers say.

There will be more money to raise standards of literacy and numeracy and for a new "sure start" programme for under-three-year-olds.

Capital spending on schools will double during the course of this Parliament - more than a million children are still taught

But Peter Smith, general

secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, warned: "There must be no more cooling the books over teachers' pay; no more fudging, ducking or spinning over the issue. The Government knows there is a recruitment crisis. What is the point of new classrooms with no teachers?"

David Hart, leader of the National Association of Head Teachers, added: "Attempts to place handcuffs on the teachers' pay review body will not solve the recruitment crisis, which is of monumental proportions."

The Government plans to increase student numbers by 500,000 on top of the existing five million in full and part-time study, with most of the expansion in further education colleges.

Universities were waiting to discover whether their bid for up to £1bn a year in extra funding had been successful. However, vice-chancellors welcomed the pledge of £1.1bn extra spending - on top of the £1.9bn - on scientific research over three years.

Monica Hicks, spokeswoman for the Association of University Teachers, said: "The resources for education have to be welcomed, but the proof of the pudding is in the eating and we will have to see what happens when David Blunkett gives the full details. Investment in higher education will bring dividends in economic success. That's what we will look for."



A seven-year-old pupil at the Richard Austin Butler School in Saffron Walden, Essex

Brian Harris

Tough new Guaranteed income for elderly rules on public pay

UNIONS
By BARRIE CLEMENT

ire of employees leaders rather than the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In the past the Government has ameliorated the impact of increases recommended by the pay bodies by phasing them in, but the Chancellor hopes to avoid such a device by placing further restrictions on the committees' room for manoeuvre.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of public service union Unison, welcomed the "much-needed boost" for hospitals and schools. "But we cannot applaud the continuing grudge against public service workers, nor the squeeze on their living standards."

He said workers in health and education would continue to feel "angry and demoralised" that years of austerity were to be extended. He pointed out that pay in the public sector increased by 2.6 per cent this year, compared to 5.6 per cent in the private sector.

In a veiled threat of industrial action, he said: "Unless something is done to close this growing gap, there could be more difficulties ahead than just recruitment and retention."

Christine Hancock, leader of the Royal College of Nursing, said she was "anxious" about the new rules governing review bodies. However, she said the National Health Service would be forced to set reasonable pay rates in order to address chronic shortages.

Senior union sources said yesterday they will now have to decide whether to pull out of the pay review system, but it is unclear whether such a decision would improve their members' chances of higher settlements. Left-wingers believe that only a sustained period of industrial action would change the Government's mind.

It is understood that Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, will attempt to reach a three-year pay settlement to match the period of the expenditure plans and that David Blunkett, Education Secretary, will look for a deal to cover the second and third years of the spending review.

The decision to devolve responsibility for setting pay to departments means that secretaries of state will face the

PENSIONERS WERE given a £15m boost yesterday from the Chancellor which will guarantee them a minimum income, and restore the right to free eye tests. Help with public transport and fuel bills will also form part of the package which Gordon Brown said would "fulfil our duty to the oldest members of society".

On Friday, the Secretary of State for Social Security, Harriet Harman, will announce proposals which will give every pensioner and pensioner couple a guaranteed income from next April. "We will also set a mini-

PENSIONS
By GLENDA COOPER

mum tax guarantee: that no pensioner will pay income tax unless their income rises above a specified level," Mr Brown said.

Pilot studies are already under way to find how best to ensure the estimated one million pensioners not claiming the income support to which they are entitled get the money. The expectation is that there will be an extension of "data matching" between agencies, to identify the poorest pensioners and en-

sure they are getting the money they are due.

Further help with fuel bills will also be announced by Ms Harman, following promises to pensioners in the Budget.

Charges for eye tests will be abolished for the elderly. "It has always been wrong that charges are levied on pensioners for the eye-sight tests that they regularly need to preserve sight and protect against disease," said Mr Brown. "So for pensioners, from next April, eye-test charges will be abolished." However, the right to free dental checks has not been restored.

"Pensioners need £150 a week to live on. That is the minimum price tag on dignity and independence. We are eager to hear how the Chancellor is going to bring pensioners closer to this adequate income figure," said Sally Greengross, director-general of the charity Age Concern.

Age Concern welcomes free eye tests for older people but free eye tests must be followed up by free treatment if the Chancellor really intends to "preserve sight and protect against disease", she said.

Mervyn Kohler, head of pub-

lic affairs at the charity Help the Aged, said pensioners were beginning to get "serious attention" at last. "However, this spending review should not be judged by the goodies in the headlines," he said. "Its value will be fit enables spending departments to put fresh emphasis on older people's needs. Help the Aged is looking for joined-up thinking by government and the devil will be in the detail."

Mr Brown said that the growth in social security spending would be "significantly lower" than the previous Parliament, because of the num-

bers moving off benefit into work, especially lone parents whose numbers on income support had fallen below a million.

He forecast that spending on benefit would rise from £955m in 1998-9 to £1,080m in 2001-2.

Ms Harman added that the spending review was a "key step" in delivering a modern social security system which would cut out waste. "We are also ensuring the system is secure from fraud and we launched our Green Paper setting out our threefold approach of detection, deterrence and prevention," she said.

Scottish Office grant up to £15bn

SCOTLAND
By STEPHEN GOODWIN

ment's priorities not "on the margins" of Westminster, as he put it, but in Edinburgh.

Scotland will receive £4bn more over the next three years - around £300 extra for every man, woman and child. Education and health are the big gainers, sharing an extra £3bn. The losers are tuition fee paying students, industry support and local authorities, who face having to impose council tax bills of up to 5 per cent.

However the Scottish Parliament, when it begins at the end of 1999, will be free to

change the Government's spending priorities. Mr Dewar, who is expected to become Scotland's "prime minister" if Labour are the largest party, said he believed the disposition of resources was just and reflected the needs of Scotland.

John Swinney, the SNP Treasury spokesman, said the share-out within Scotland contained "a large element of robbing Peter to pay Paul". He pointed out that despite the vaunted increases, the total budget available to the new Parliament in 2000/01 would be more than £200m down on the money available to Scotland at the peak of Tory spending four years ago.



Next year will see battles over finance raging in Edinburgh

Daily Record

Extra £6bn for homes

HOUSING
By LOUISE JURY

AN EXTRA £6bn is to be released to help tackle homelessness and renovate more than 1.5 million homes, the Chancellor announced yesterday.

Announcing a number of measures to improve housing stock and availability, Gordon Brown said local authorities would be allowed to use capital receipts from the sale of council houses to tackle the serious backlog of repairs.

Improvements will be possible on an estimated 1.5 million homes over the next three years using £3.6bn from local authority capital receipts. Around 250,000 with a backlog of problems will benefit from more major repairs.

Additional millions are likely to be made available for housing-related projects as part of a New Deal for Communities aimed at improving neighbourhoods and increasing economic opportunities for the residents. Under the scheme, housing and regeneration money is to be combined in the most deprived areas "to achieve improvements that last". However, details were not published yesterday.

A Housing Inspectorate "with real power to tackle poor management" is to be established under the Audit Com-

mission to examine housing management in every local authority.

Council-house tenants are to be given greater say in how their homes are managed and maintained, although rents will increase by 1 per cent in real terms next year and 2 per cent in each of the following two years to help fund maintenance.

There will be also a new programme for home energy efficiency to help the government to meet environmental obligations. Chris Holmes, of the Shelter housing charity, said an estimated £20bn was needed to bring existing housing stocks up to satisfactory standards. But the extra money was welcome.

Aid for drugs war

HOME OFFICE
By IAN BURRELL AND JASON BENNETTO

and more resources dedicated to helping victims of crime and improving race relations.

But the police have been given a below-inflation increase, with the threat of having their budgets cut in the future if they fail to make efficiency savings.

The tough package gives the 43 forces in England and Wales a 2.7 per cent rise next year, followed by increases of 2.8 per cent and 4 per cent in the following years. This will see the total spending rise from about £7.1bn next year to £7.6bn in the year to April 2002. However, some of the money will be withheld after 2000 if forces fail to make 2 per cent efficiency savings every year.

Over-16s benefit linked to study

SCHOOL ALLOWANCE
BY GLENDA COOPER

YOUNG PEOPLE will receive an allowance to stay at school beyond 16, in a scheme that could sound the death knell for child benefit for 16 and 17-year-olds. To raise Britain's "appalling" staying-on rates, a new educational maintenance allowance linked to attendance and based on parental income will be piloted for 16 to 18-year-olds.

"If, as we expect, the new educational maintenance allowance succeeds in encouraging young people to stay on in education, we plan to introduce it nationally, using the money ... spent on child benefit post-16," the Chancellor said yesterday.

Plans to abolish any part of the universal child benefit have met with strong opposition in the past. In the March budget Gordon Brown risked the ire of the middle classes by warning higher rate tax-payers they faced a future tax on the benefit.

Yesterday one Labour MP interpreting the education maintenance proposal as a plan to pay directly to students money which now goes to the mothers of over-16s in full-time education, said it was a "worrying" idea. "It could see money that is now spent on shoes and food going instead on partying and beer," the MP warned. A DSS spokeswoman said last night it was not yet clear whom the allowance would be paid to.

A New Deal to help the young jobless become self-employed will also be launched on Friday, and the Government is introducing Sure Start for the under threes to link childcare, playgroups and post-natal and other health services.

Health chiefs savour £21bn

Over-16s benefit linked to study

HEALTH

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

increase. All the figures take account of inflation estimated at 2.5 per cent.

The cash boost, the largest in history according to Gordon Brown, will mean a mouth watering 5.7 per cent increase in real terms for the health service next year, with slightly lower rises in the next two years, averaging 4.7 per cent a year for the rest of the Parliament.

The NHS Confederation, representing health authorities and trusts, declared the sum "beyond our wildest dreams". Stephen Thornton, the chief executive, said: "It is spectacular. We were all expecting £10-12bn. It does genuinely show that this Government is committed to the NHS. The numbers are so big I am not even saying what I normally say, which is that we have to watch the small print."

The Royal College of Nursing said the sum offered "one of the most exciting opportunities to revolutionise quality in the history of the NHS". The British Medical Association said it was a "significant investment". The only sour note came from the health unions who noted the "continuing grudge against public service workers" and the "squeeze on their living standards".

In cash terms, spending will rise in England by £3bn next year from its current level of £36.5bn to £39.5bn and by a further £3bn to £42.5bn in 2000-01. The rise in the final year of the Parliament will be slightly lower at £2.5bn to just over £45bn, a 3.9 per cent real

increase. All the figures take account of inflation estimated at 2.5 per cent.

A jubilant Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, declared: "The Prime Minister promised that the NHS would get the money it needs. Today the Government has delivered on that promise."

In his speech, the Chancellor said half the beds in NHS hospitals were in accommodation built before the First World War and three-quarters of ward blocks were hand-me-downs. He announced a 50 per cent increase in investment in equipment and buildings, and a £5bn fund for NHS modernisation - totalling £8bn over the period.

This includes a 66 per cent boost in the Treasury's contribution, from £1.2bn to almost £2bn over the three years for building new hospitals, but only a small increase in private investment via the unpopular private finance initiative.

Mr Dobson said that the NHS modernisation fund would



A surgeon at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. The NHS is getting its biggest cash boost ever Brian Harris

be ring-fenced "so that it delivers exactly what we want". An extra £3bn would be invested in social services over the next three years, giving an average annual real increase of 3.1 per cent.

He added: "In both health and social services we are delivering investment for reform. I shall be setting challenging targets to ensure we get the most out of the money and that patients everywhere

get the high-quality care they deserve."

However, Rabbi Julia Neuberger, chief executive of the King's Fund, the health policy think-tank, warned that the efficiency targets must be the

right ones. Referring to the Government's pledge to reduce waiting lists, she said: "Money in return for modernisation must not allow the health service to fall victim to political gain."

THE CHANCELLOR is to increase spending by more than £55bn over the next three years. £40bn of this will go to health and education, almost double the amount expected, with the rest being shared between a series of government departments, including the Home Office, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The news was warmly received by many MPs and industry figures. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said it welcomed the increase in spending on "key priority areas, including education, transport and science." Economists in the City, though, were more cautious, saying the generous increases could push the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) into raising rates again. There has also been some dispute about the way the Government has presented the figures, with some MPs and economists saying actual levels of public spending will be higher than the Government has claimed.

Despite the larger-than-expected bonanza for education and health, the Chancellor insisted total spending will stay within the expenditure caps set out by the Treasury last month. He told the Commons yesterday: "All the allocations are made within and subject to the overall financial discipline as I set out in the Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report I published last month."

The Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report (EFSR) capped the real annual increase in government spending - that is, the annual increase after taking out the effects of inflation - at 2.75 per cent a year over the next three years.

To balance the books, Mr Brown has cut spending on defence, agriculture, and the Cabinet Office, with these departments seeing their budgets cut in real terms - that is, excluding the effects of inflation. The Department of Trade and Industry, Foreign Office and the Lord Chancellor's Department have also lost out. The will have to live with real spending increases below the trend growth rate of the economy.

Mr Brown has also managed to conjure up more money for health and education by cutting back on central government expenditure. The amount that the Government has laid out on servicing its debt will fall by almost £1bn over the next three years as borrowing levels fall. Indeed, the Treasury calculates that - thanks to the steps the Government has already taken to cut borrowing - debt interest will be £5bn lower than it would have been under the Conservative government. These savings in debt interest are being

ECONOMY
BY LEA PATERSON

ploughed back into the economy.

Payments to the EU are another area of saving. The Treasury calculates that these will fall by £0.6bn next year, largely because this year's payment was higher than normal, although there will be some increase in payments to the EU towards the end of the three-year period.

In total, the Government is to spend more than £1 trillion over the next three years. £51.6bn will be spent in the fiscal year 1999-2000, £59.4bn in 2000-01 and £76.7bn in 2001-2002. About 87 per cent of spending will be current expenditure - that is expenditure needed to finance current demands such as social-security benefits. The remainder - some £22.1bn - is public sector "net investment", which is to go towards improving the economic infrastructure.

According to Treasury estimates, this public-sector net investment will more than double over the next three years.

The Government has pledged that it will not borrow to finance current expenditure - the so-called "golden rule" of fiscal stability. Current expenditure over the next three years will be financed by taxation - indeed, the Government predicts that tax receipts will exceed current expenditure over the next three years, leaving a current-account surplus which will go towards paying for investment in the economy - so-called "capital expenditure".

The amount of investment the Government intends to make in the economy will also be boosted by money it makes from selling assets such as surplus land and local buildings. In total, the Government hopes proceeds from asset sales will allow it to invest an additional £1bn a year in UK plc.

The Government predicts it will have to borrow £2bn next year to finance its spending, but that its borrowing requirements will be virtually zero in 2000 and 2001.

The City was cautious about Mr Brown's spending spree. Many economists say the plans amount to a "fiscal loosening" - that is, more generous than was initially expected. There have also been concerns that the Government has understated the true increases in public expenditure by treating part of the Working Families Tax Credit - the replacement for Family Credit - as a tax credit rather than spending. Others have raised concerns about the prudence of relying on falls in so-called "non-controllable" items such as EU payments to boost spending elsewhere.

Boost for buses, railways, roads

TRANSPORT

BY RANDEEP RAMESH

GORDON BROWN, the Chancellor, gave voters the first taste of the Government's radical transport strategy, announcing a £2bn cash boost for the nation's buses, railways and roads.

The figures come a week before John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, unveils his integrated transport white paper, which will detail how the money will be spent.

Over the next three years the Government will release £1.1bn

for local-transport initiatives designed to "reduce congestion, improve safety and the environment and increase accessibility ... in all parts of the country". Experts point out that a few million pounds could resurrect disused railway lines such as the Ivanhoe branch in Leicestershire or be used for more innovative schemes such as the Midlands Metro - a Bir-

mingham-based tram system. The motoring lobby was also pleased by an extra £700m for road maintenance. This is likely to include some motorway widening - with the M25, London's orbital highway, almost certain to be extended from four to five lanes around the Heathrow area.

Environmentalists were quick to question the wisdom of spending more on roads. "Our concern is that John Prescott will continue to use existing

money to widen new motorways when he should be spending it on packages of measures to upgrade the railways," said Roger Higman, spokesman for Friends of the Earth.

However, it is unclear how the money will be spent. Ministers want the funds to be used to entice private companies to invest in the transport network. The financial model favoured by Mr Prescott is the "public-private partnership" he devised for London's ailing

Tube system. Steven Norris, a former Tory transport minister, who now heads the lorry lobby's Road Haulage Association, questioned how much of the money would be "guaranteed".

"We will have to wait till we see the detailed figures before we start breaking out the champagne. Britain's transport problems will only be solved by a genuine increase in spending, not by clever accounting."

Mr Brown was scathing over

the previous government's record of transport spending. It had left a legacy of years of neglect and under-investment, an over-crowded, under-financed, under-planned and under-maintained transport system. We had a 25-per-cent decline in transport investment in the last parliament. There will be a 25-per-cent increase in the next three years for investment in public transport and meeting our environmental objectives".

Mr Brown has also managed to conjure up more money for health and education by cutting back on central government expenditure. The amount that the Government has laid out on servicing its debt will fall by almost £1bn over the next three years as borrowing levels fall. Indeed,

the Treasury calculates that - thanks to the steps the Government has already taken to cut borrowing - debt interest will be £5bn lower than it would have been under the Conservative government. These savings in debt interest are being

Arts fund has strings attached

ARTS

BY DAVID LISTER

THE ARTS - and museums in particular - will benefit from the Culture Department's 5.7 per cent rise in spending over the next three years.

The £290m boost will, as revealed in *The Independent*, go partly towards increasing access to museums and galleries. This is understood to mean extending free admission to national museums, though Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, will spell out the details on Friday week.

But the new money for both museums and the performing arts will come with strings. Mr Smith said yesterday: "The new investment places a clear responsibility on funding bodies for agreed improvements in efficiency, access and private sector sponsorship."

"It is a new contract with the arts. The aim is reform for the benefit of the many, not just the few. There will be extra money to give more people easier access to the opportunities provided by our museums and galleries and to a new artistic life."

So while Mr Smith is promising new investment for museums and galleries and helping to put performing arts companies on a sound financial basis

that the stress on efficiency will also be seen as a warning for the Royal Opera House which will not be receiving any increase in funding until it shows it has put its house in order.

The news of more money for museums and galleries was welcomed by the National Art Collections Fund, one of the bodies that, along with *The Independent*, has campaigned for free admission.



Museums will benefit from a £290m grant to improve access with lower admission charges Tom Pilston

SCIENCE

BY CHARLES ARTHUR

£200m - funded equally by the Government and the Wellcome Trust - will go to build and refurbish university laboratories. An area which was picked out by the pressure group Save British Science (SBS) as essential two years ago. Then

SBS said that £500m was needed to bring laboratories up to the minimum standard required to keep pace with academia in other countries. While the government has not found the whole sum, its ability to persuade the Wellcome Trust to pitch in may mean that Britain's public research scientists once again have the facilities they so badly need. The Research Councils will receive £400m to meet current and capital costs for new project funding in "priority" areas, particularly the life sciences, where business is booming as biotechnology becomes an everyday topic.

Finally, the Wellcome Trust is putting £100m towards a syn-

chronotron X-ray machine, to try to keep the UK in the race to decode and understand the function of all the genes in our DNA - the "Human Genome Project" (HGP). The Wellcome Trust has already made sizeable pledges to the British HGP campus near Cambridge.

The question will be whether this funding will be enough to keep it there.

£1bn for science in public, private scheme

City wary of another rise in rates

ECONOMY

BY LEA PATERSON

ploughed back into the economy.

Payments to the EU are another area of saving. The Treasury calculates that these will fall by £0.6bn next year, largely because this year's payment was higher than normal, although there will be some increase in payments to the EU towards the end of the three-year period.

The news was warmly received by many MPs and industry figures. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said it welcomed the increase in spending on "key priority areas, including education, transport and science." Economists in the City, though, were more cautious, saying the generous increases could push the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) into raising rates again. There has also been some dispute about the way the Government has presented the figures, with some MPs and economists saying actual levels of public spending will be higher than the Government has claimed.

Despite the larger-than-expected bonanza for education and health, the Chancellor insisted total spending will stay within the expenditure caps set out by the Treasury last month. He told the Commons yesterday: "All the allocations are made within and subject to the overall financial discipline as I set out in the Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report I published last month."

The Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report (EFSR) capped the real annual increase in government spending - that is, the annual increase after taking out the effects of inflation - at 2.75 per cent a year over the next three years.

To balance the books, Mr Brown has cut spending on defence, agriculture, and the Cabinet Office, with these departments seeing their budgets cut in real terms - that is, excluding the effects of inflation. The Department of Trade and Industry, Foreign Office and the Lord Chancellor's Department have also lost out. The will have to live with real spending increases below the trend growth rate of the economy.

Mr Brown has also managed to conjure up more money for health and education by cutting back on central government expenditure. The amount that the Government has laid out on servicing its debt will fall by almost £1bn over the next three years as borrowing levels fall. Indeed,

the Treasury calculates that - thanks to the steps the Government has already taken to cut borrowing - debt interest will be £5bn lower than it would have been under the Conservative government. These savings in debt interest are being

expansion will include the European Union and applicant countries to Nato, the Caspian region, China and Brazil.

In Tashkent, in the central Asian republic of Uzbekistan, for example, France has 17 diplomats. Germany has 28 - and Britain has two. The British hunger for commercial contracts means an almost certain increase. Talk of co-operation between EU countries in the region in order to reduce the number of diplomats and missions, has been shelved.

As at the Department for International Development, the increase in Foreign Office spending represents a clear reversal of the previous trend. In the past five years alone, there have been cuts of 14 per cent at the Foreign Office.

that our predecessors allowed, ensuring that we have a modern and effective science base for the new millennium," said Margaret Beckett, president of the Board of Trade. "In the life sciences, the UK is a world leader."

The question will be whether this funding will be enough to keep it there.

Chancellor in driving seat but end of the road for Prudence

THE CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer arrived at the House of Commons, yesterday, with his much trailed statement on public expenditure. A hushed and expectant Labour party and nervous Conservatives fastened their seatbelts for the drive of their life.

Dark and hunched, Mr Brown slipped effortlessly and automatically into the "drive" position. Foot firmly on the accelerator of public expenditure he wasted no time in pulling straight out into the fast lane, without even bothering to check the rear view mirror.

Within seconds his deep baritone voice had got him from 0-70mph and we were cruising to Christmas six

months early. Words were punched out with so much emphasis and speed that it was hard to keep up. Prudence, who normally rides in the passenger seat, giving him directions, had been banished to the rear but was not allowed to do any back-seat driving.

He is tiring of her and yesterday she was raped and then replaced by a more alluring mistress called "public expenditure" who rode adoringly by his side; he stroked her knee throughout the journey.

By the time the Chancellor had

got to the first big spend - education - he was hitting the speed limit. Prudence was getting extremely nervous and wanted to be let out.

"For the next three years I can announce additional education spending of £19 billion." Labour backbenchers roared as they suddenly realised that it was okay and "cool" to be old Labour again.

After the years of having to out-Tory the Tories they were finally rewarded with a party. Never mind New Labour and champagne. This was an afternoon where they could allow themselves to down good old fashioned foaming pints of beer in their Labour clubs and look old party stalwarts in the eye.

Mr Brown announced cumulative increases for each of the next three years. He had an election bribe of £10bn for the year 2001

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

alone. "This is what we mean by education, education, education," Yes, Gordon. Otherwise known as spend, spend, spend.

With one arm on his makeshift

lectern of two handbags he punched out figures with his other fist hitting the table rather like a Methodist preacher might hammer away in the pulpit.

The speedometer overshot the legal limit as he opened the arm rest between the seats and found a little package marked "local authority capital receipts". These had been left lying around by the last owner, the Tory government, and were worth £3.6bn for renovating one and a half million homes.

Out of the glove compartment he found even more goodies to please Labour backbenchers. Free eye tests for pensioners; from next April every pensioner will have a

minimum income guarantee. As he turned to the National Health Service he was doing over 100 mph and was still accelerating. "For the coming three years I am announcing an increase in Health Service funding of a total of £21 billion." Labour members went berserk. Prudence had fainted and was slumped on the back seat. Tories saw the vehicle coming towards them and tried to jump out of the way.

Suddenly he screeched to a halt. "As a result of prudence... £20bn will be invested in the nation's priorities." At the mention of her name Prudence woke up but as the vehicle came to a halt she shot for-

ward because she had not been wearing her safety belt. She sustained dreadful injuries and may never be heard of again. Labour backbenchers roared, cheered and jumped up and down - they had never really liked Prudence.

In the mayhem, a rickety police car driven by the shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, tried in vain to keep up and desperately wanted to arrest Mr Brown for speeding, reckless driving and being under the influence of old Labour.

PC Maude did not catch the Chancellor yesterday for the death of Prudence but his day will come. That day will be either a stock market crash or an economic recession.

Brown puts his trust in stable growth

GORDON BROWN was cheered by Labour backbenchers yesterday as he unveiled a cash injection of £40bn over the next three years for education and health. Education will receive an extra £10bn, with £1bn set aside for health - the biggest investment in the National Health Service, he told MPs.

The Chancellor began his Comprehensive Spending Review statement by telling the House of Commons that the Government's central objectives were stable levels of growth and employment, and sustainable public services.

Public borrowing had been cut by £20bn, through fiscal tightening, which would continue into next year. "And to meet our fiscal rules and to live with cautious and published assumptions... we plan current surpluses for the next three years of £7bn, £10bn and £13bn," he told MPs.

Debt as a proportion of national income would fall below 40 per cent he said, promising: "By the end of this Parliament, debt interest payments will be £5bn a year lower than we had simply left borrowing at the level inherited from the Tories."

Assuring the House that "the growth in social security spending for this Parliament will be significantly lower than in the last Parliament", Mr Brown said the spending review "has examined the most effective use of public money across and within each department."

"The first innovation of the

CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH BY DAISY SAMPSON

Comprehensive Spending Review is to move from the short-termism of the annual cycle and to draw up public expenditure plans not on a one-year basis but on a three-year basis," he said. The Government would seek "new standards of efficiency to ensure that every penny is well spent".

Mr Brown said each department has reached a "public service agreement" with the Treasury - "effectively a contract... for the renewal of our services."

The money would be released to spending departments only if they kept to their agreed plans for reform and modernisation he said, adding that the new system would be overseen by a Cabinet committee. "More resources will go direct to front-line services," such as patient care, classroom teaching and fighting crime, the Chancellor said as a result of his changes.

Mr Brown told MPs to expect, among other "radical reforms" changes to legal aid, asylum procedures, child benefit, youth justice and the withdrawal of unjustified subsidies.

He said central and local government had agreed a programme for the release of £11bn in assets no longer needed for investment in health, education, transport and other essential services. "By securing greater value for money we

will secure more money for what we value."

As a result, services for asylum seekers would be managed by one department rather than five and the three departments responsible for criminal justice would work together to "one set of objectives".

Mr Brown said: "Our prudence has been for a purpose. It is because we have set tough efficiency targets... that our top priorities - health and education - will receive more new money than the other 10 government departments combined."

Declaring this is "what we

mean by education, education, education," he announced additional spending of £19bn over the next three years on schools.

The Government would spend £3bn more in 1999, £5bn more in 2000 and £10bn more in 2001. That would lead to a 500,000 expansion in numbers of students in higher and further education.

On public transport, Mr Brown said there would be a £3bn boost. "From a 25 per cent decline in transport investment in the last Parliament, there will be a 25 per cent increase in the next three years."

Full details would be set out by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, in the transport White Paper, he told the House.

Mr Brown set out a series of measures to help build "safer and stronger communities". There would be more investment for crime prevention and moves to tackle the underlying causes of poverty, with a 25 per

cent increase in funding on tackling drug-abuse.

He also said an extra £3bn would be released from local authority capital receipts to help tackle homelessness and to renovate 1.5 million homes.

Moving on to welfare policy, Mr Brown said: "For our most deprived estates the key problems are not just poor housing but lack of employment and economic opportunity."

Consequently, a total of £200m would be allocated to the New Deal for Communities, along with a new deal to help the young unemployed to become self-employed.

Of the more popular proposals were plans for the elderly, including the abolition of eye test charges for pensioners from next April. There would also be help with transport for the elderly in the transport White Paper.

Mr Brown said that Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, would announce plans later this week for help with pensions' fuel bills.

"From next April, every pensioner and pensioner couple will have a minimum income guarantee," he said. The Government would set aside £2.5bn for this programme.

Funds for the BBC World Service are to be raised by £44m over the next three years.

Britain's overseas aid is to increase from 0.25 per cent of national income - the figure

inherited from the Tories - to 0.3 per cent this Parliament.

Turning to the most speculated area of his speech - health - the Chancellor said: "The NHS is in expansion in action, what its founder, Aneurin Bevan, rightly called the most civilised achievement of modern government."

Promising that the NHS would never be left to the hazards of private or charitable provision under a Labour government, Mr Brown said that tomorrow Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, would announce targets to help with pensions' fuel bills.

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to be up by over 20 per cent over this year."

The Shadow Chancellor said Mr Brown should admit that spending would really increase by much more than 3 per cent a year.

While welcoming the extra money on health and education he said: "Under Labour the economy is already faltering. And because you have failed to reform welfare, you are paying for the increase in spending, by raising taxes."

Mr Maude asked the Chancellor: "Will you tell the House, how much of the extra money on health is going to be spent simply on pensioners forced off health insurance by your vindictive attack?"

How much of the extra on education will be spent on pupils forced off the assisted places scheme?

Claiming that Mr Brown had introduced permanent budget

deficits, increased the national debt and encouraged the state to spend "ever more", Mr Maude told MPs: "In just a few short months the three central pillars of the myth of the Iron Chancellor have rusted away."

"As we start life next 50 years, the NHS is safe in this government's hands," Mr Brown said. "This government has made the choices necessary to deliver stable and sustainable public finances. We have been steadfast in our priorities - the nation's priorities."

Defence cuts

THE CHIEF of Defence Staff was sufficiently concerned about the level of cuts being imposed on the Defence budget that he raised it personally with Tony Blair, it was disclosed yesterday.

General Sir Charles Guthrie confirmed he had discussed the 3 per cent efficiency savings demanded under the Strategic Defence Review at a meeting with Prime Minister.

"I told him that I thought the 3 per cent efficiency savings were a challenging target," Sir Charles said.

THE HOUSE



Sir Charles, giving evidence to the Commons Defence Select Committee, said he believed the savings - that will see £885m wiped off the Defence budget - were achievable although they had been set a "tight, taut" budget.

Today

■ In the Commons: Work and prospects of the British Council; Preparations for Buenos Aires conference on climate change; UK art market; Train services for Northampton; Maritime safety in the fishing industry; Northern Ireland questions; Questions to the Prime Minister; School Standards Bill; Lords amendments; Investigation of death of Edgar Fernandes in Turkey.

■ In the Lords: Government of Wales Bill, third reading; Debate on management of the New Forest (Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, C).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Help for tenants

FUNDING FOR supported accommodation will be extended by 12 months, Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, told Jim Fitzpatrick (Lab, Poplar and Canning Town). The scheme would ensure financial security for tenants who relied on housing benefit to pay for support services.

Moscow revamp

THE FOREIGN OFFICE is to spend £48.7m on its facilities in Russia. Tony Lloyd, Foreign Office minister, told Norman Baker (Lib Dem, Lewes). That included £17.9m on new Moscow offices.

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	£16,000	10.1%	£327.60	£20,216.00	
BARCLAYS	£4,000	17.0%	£498.87	£5,912.20	
	£10,000	15.9%	£228.00	£14,280.00	
	£16,000	Not available			
LLOYDS	£4,000	16.0%	£494.88	£5,490.88	
	£10,000	13.8%	£221.95	£13,477.00	
	£16,000	13.0%	£344.75	£21,885.00	
ABSEY NATIONAL	£4,000	16.2%	£495.57	£5,734.28	
	£10,000	13.4%	£225.70	£13,542.00	
	£16,000	Not available			

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Serial killer's book contract seized

THE PRISON SERVICE was last night talking with its legal advisers to try and prevent the serial killer Dennis Nilsen from publishing his autobiography.

Senior officials took action after prison officers seized a draft contract that had been posted to the mass murderer at Whitemoor prison in Cambridgeshire. The Prison Service was already investigating how a copy of the 453-page manuscript was smuggled out of the top-security jail.

Jack Straw, the Home Sec-

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

retary, has been determined to prevent criminals profiting from books about their crimes since the outcry over payment to Mary Bell - who killed two children when she herself was a child - for her co-operation on a book about her life by the distinguished author Gitta Sereny.

A Prison Service spokesman said: "We are consulting with counsel as to whether there is

a means of preventing publication." The draft contract - reported to be worth £100,000 - was confiscated by the prison staff because it was deemed to be a breach of prison service standing orders which prevent inmates from profiting from their crimes. The book, provisionally titled *Waiting for the Man*, is being edited by the gay author Peter Paul Harnett, former teacher whose previous work includes the novels *Call Me and I Want to Fuck You*.

Mr Harnett's publicist Su-

zanne Martin, based in Soho, central London, said yesterday that she had no idea how her company's name came to be on the draft contract seized at the jail. "We are aware of Harnett's collaboration with Dennis Nilsen on his memoirs, but we are not - nor will we be - issuing any contract."

Nilsen, 51, is serving life for the murder of up to 15 young men whom he picked up in bars and lured to his flat in Muswell Hill, north London.

In the manuscript, the killer

reportedly states that he killed in order to use the corpses as props for his fantasies. "I pretended it was me being cared for, and at the same time I was also the carer looking after them," he writes.

He also tells how he chopped up the bodies on a wooden board over his bath while drunk on rum before putting the remains in bin bags.

"When recalling what I had to go through, the reader will think it odd that I can't stand the sight of blood," writes Nilsen.

Nilsen, who has been told he will never be released, is anxious that he is not forgotten. He has been allowed to set up a recording studio in his cell, and hopes his music will be made available to the public.

The serial killer, who has befriended penal reformers such as Lord Longford, also caused controversy by giving an interview on his crimes from prison for a television documentary.

While the prison service is determined to prevent prisoners making money from writing

about their crimes, it acknowledges that penning an autobiography can be a useful form of therapy. Many jails now have writers in residence, such as the feminist author Sara Maitland, who is based at Ashwell prison in Leicestershire.

Other high-profile inmates who have tried to get their stories published include Moors murderer Myra Hindley and Charles Bronson, who took the Hollywood star's name, writes poetry, and styles himself Britain's most dangerous prisoner.



Nilsen: Jail manuscript

Even our peas are depressed by the rain

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

BRITAIN'S FARMERS said yesterday they had been hard hit by the recent bad weather which had damaged crops and made harvesting difficult.

Floods have reduced fruit and vegetable supplies and pea producers said yields were down because of the weather. "It has to have been one of the worst starts to the summer that we have seen for a decade," said David Brown, chief horticultural advisor to the National Farmers' Union.

"The wet and damp weather and the lack of sunshine has not helped one little bit. Soft fruits, salad producers, peas and brassica have all suffered.

Different farmers have been hit in different ways. But it is fair to say that no one has been helped."

He said salad producers suffered further damage because people had no appetite for their produce while the climate is so wet and cloudy.

Mr Brown added: "The last

two weeks should have been very good but the demand has simply not been there.

"The only possible silver lining is that in August when people tend not to bother buying tomatoes because they have grown their own, they will be forced to this time because their own crops have failed."

Yesterday the food and finance company, the Albert Fisher Group Plc, announced a shortfall in profits for the first half of 1998 and said one of the reasons was a 25 per cent reduction in its pea harvest.

"We estimated a crop of

around 32,000 tonnes but have seen that fall by a quarter," said a spokesman for the company, whose pea-growing operation is centred on Lincolnshire and East Anglia.

"It's been wet, it has been

damp and there has been no sun. The peas have not been as prolific as we had hoped."

A spokesman for the Protected Vegetable Growers Association said the problem was industry-wide and that some growers may suffer more than a 25 per cent shortfall.

"Peas hate the wet and love the sun. At the moment they have seen very little sun and

they have wet feet," he said.

"There's not much growers can do about it except harvest whatever crop they are left with."

In the West Country, pick-your-own farmers have also felt the pain, partly because there have been fewer tourists

as a result of the gloomy weather. Although strawberries have been largely unaffected there is a danger they could rot if they are left too long.

"We've had to employ 20 more people than normal to help pick the fruit," said Jan Butterley, manager of the

Nynehead fruit farm near Wellington, Somerset.

"The rain helps the weeds grow and the mud has made the paths a disaster. We've put down bales of hay on top of the mud so at least people can walk."

Forecasts for today suggest

a mixture of sunny spells and showers for most of the country with south Wales and the South-west turning wet by this evening.

The outlook for tomorrow and Friday suggests cool, changing weather with sunny spells and showers.

The hearing continues today.



Strawberry pickers take advantage of a dry spell at Stanhill Farm, near Dartford, Kent

Tom Pilston

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Hague launches the Tory chat show



Mr Hague in perpetual motion yesterday, at a shadow-cabinet meeting (left), at the launch of the 'listening' drive (centre), and being grilled by schoolboys John Voss



BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

"EXPLAIN TO ME why we're here," one of William Hague's press officials whispered to one of his colleagues. "It's a press conference launching our 'Listening to Britain' campaign," he answered.

"But why here?" asked the first official, surveying the flashy Imagination Gallery in central London. "Why not Central Office?" The reply came: "Because we want to show people we've got imagination."

Which is why Mr Hague yesterday announced a year-long consultation with voters, from a lantern flanked by two black Christmas trees. "They're from the same florist as supplied flowers for *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and Elton John's 50th birthday party," boasted the gallery. It wasn't clear whether the Tory leader, with his deputy, Peter Lilley, spotted the trees as he swept into the gallery to a drumbeat composed by the party's IT department. But a man who was recently hospitalised with sinusitis was clearly delighted with the show.

A raft of former Cabinet ministers, Gillian Shephard, John Redwood, and John Maples among them, had turned out to support his contention that the Tories are no longer élitists buried in Central Office but the listening party. A billboard with pictures of ordinary folk said in the style of a recruitment poster: "SPEAK OUT".

Mr Hague promised 150 meetings across the country in the coming year in which ordinary people would have their say. But I had a query. Weren't those happy faces on the billboard party workers? "Ah," said Lord Parkinson, party chairman, grinning sheepishly. "I'll say no more than I may have seen one or two before."

Nevertheless, Mr Hague was clearly taken with meeting real people. "Listening to Britain has already been tried out," he declared triumphantly, like a great inventor. He was referring to his earlier breakfast in his offices with 20 NHS staff. That was after he had already done five radio interviews, having risen at 6.15am. The NHS guests had come to tell him their woes, over croissants and coffee, and offer hints on how to run the health service better. "We want to speak to the people we feel we alienated last time around," said Alan Duncan, the party's

health spokesman. "These people are absolutely non-partisan. We don't know what they think."

For an hour, they talked of low morale, the impossibility of bringing down waiting lists and of the tricks being used to cut the figures. You had to pinch yourself to remember that the Tories are no longer in government and want to be their cheerleaders. "We're just playing a game over waiting lists," said one manager.

Mr Hague sat silent, letting Mr Duncan mine them for information. "What about the Millennium Bug?" he asked. "At least it will make the waiting lists disappear," said one. Everyone laughed.

But William Hague is not a big joker. "He doesn't turn heads," said one guest, a clinical nursing specialist. "He's too nice, too gentle." Though a Tory voter, she couldn't see him as prime minister. "Not enough charisma," she said.

A nursing student, also a Conservative voter, agreed. "By the time the Tories get back in, he'll have been blown away." But one of the GPs was impressed. "Oh yes, he would definitely make a prime minister. He's much more relaxed than on television." And how did she vote? "I shilly-shally, but I suppose I'm a Conservative."

Three out of three Tory voters... perhaps the big test for this first day of "Listening to Britain" would be the lower sixth-formers at Langley Park School for Boys in Beckenham, south London. The boys have half an hour with Mr Hague before he has to rush back to the Commons for Gordon Brown's spending statement.

"What do you think of tuition fees?" asks Andrew Lansley, party vice-chairman, as the leader looks on. "I don't agree with it, but it's for you to solve, not us," says one boy.

"I think we owe everyone a certain standard of living," says another. "Mmm uh huh," says the listening leader, biting his lip. Things are hotting up.

"What would you like to say to the Leader of the Opposition, your next prime minister? Ha ha, at least that's the aim," says Mr Lansley.

Matthew Jefferies, 17, a vicar's son, raises his hand: "It seems to me you are looking for solutions to help you back into power. It's very valuable information. So if I did know, I probably wouldn't tell you, to be honest." Everyone laughed. It was hard to fault the logic.

Minder shook baby 'as hard as possible'

BY DIANA BLAMIRES



A BABY DIED after being shaken "backwards and forwards as hard as possible", a jury heard yesterday. Five-month-old Joseph Mackin died due to a "deep brain injury" after being subjected to considerable violence, pathologist, Dr Nat Cary, told Norwich Crown Court. The baby's childminder, Helen Stacey, 41, of North Walsham, Norfolk, denies murdering him at her home in May last year.

Dr Cary, a Home Office pathologist based at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, told the jury that Joseph had suffered "quite extensive" bleeding to his brain. The injuries could not have been accidentally caused by another child. Post mortem tests also revealed bruising in muscles around Joseph's neck.

"Death in this circumstance was the direct consequence of a head injury," said Dr Cary. "This was not just a small bleed to the brain; this was quite extensive. Force of this kind... may be seen in relation to a road traffic accident, or falls from considerable heights."

"It is a classical injury of the kind seen in what is called 'shaken infant syndrome'. It arises from very violent shaking, and the head rocks backwards and forwards... It may have been caused by impact with a cushioned surface... To put it in context, you may shake somebody to wake them up. This is way in excess of that. It is basically picking up an infant and shaking it backwards and forwards as hard as you possibly can. It is that sort of level of force that is required... sustained shaking."

Joseph's parents, Anthony and Corinne Mackin, told the court on Monday that Joseph was healthy and happy when he was dropped off at Stacey's house on the morning of 13 May.

last year. Mr Mackin said that when he collected Joseph late that afternoon it was obvious that the baby was extremely ill.

Joseph was declared dead about an hour later.

The court was told that Stacey, a registered childminder who had been caring for Joseph and his sister Samantha, now three, for four days, said that the baby had been unwell all day. But the jury was told she had failed to contact Mrs or Mr Mackin, who also live in North Walsham, or to call a doctor.

A second pathologist, who examined Joseph's eyes, agreed with Dr Cary's analysis. Michael Green, Professor of Forensic Pathology at the University of Leeds, said there was bleeding in the retinas of Joseph's eyes which was normally associated with shaking injuries. He added: "Bleeding on the front of the retina and into the front of the retina is classically associated with 'shaken baby syndrome'. The child would have shown some signs of sickness straight away. He would have gone floppy. His eyes would have changed. His eyes would have rolled and so on." He thought the injury would probably have happened shortly before the baby's death.

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Leeds University fine art degree students on Clayton beach in the hoax which won them a joint first

Keith Meatheringham

Students' hoax praised in the highest degree

BY CLARE GARNER

WHEN STUDENTS faked a holiday to Spain and called it art, it was considered by some to be little more than a carefully executed prank. But the only opinion that counted - that of their examiners - has ruled that it was first class art.

The 13 third-year fine art students from Leeds University have been awarded a joint first for their bluff and double-bluff end-of-term project which successfully tricked tutors, critics and the media alike.

In the eyes of Terry Atkinson, their tutor and examiner, the hoax holiday merited the highest grade. "It was original, it asked questions about art education and art itself, and shows a lot of awareness of the historical problems of art practice," he said. "The administration and managing of the project was astounding."

In May the students invited their tutors to the opening of their exhibition, *Going Places*. The tutors promptly found

with the final mark. "I think it was mainly aimed internally. What they mainly wanted to do was ask questions of the department. They thought they might get some media coverage but it exceeded their wildest dreams. That brought a new dimension."

But David Lee, editor of *Art Review*, said: "The motto would seem to be to generate column inches and get awarded a first. The trouble these days is most people confuse the ability to create a rumpus with the ability to create good work."

Mr Lee said *Going Places* was a product of the "Stalinist artists' union" operating in this country. The most important and insidious thing is that the students are being coerced into working in a certain way in order to get themselves noticed and get a career. They know people's perception of art".

Mr Atkinson insisted that the extensive publicity for Leeds University had nothing to do

Water leakage falls 10% in a year

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

WATER LEAKAGE levels fell by more than 10 per cent last year as nearly all the water companies in England and Wales met or beat the targets set by the industry regulator.

But Ian Byatt, director general of Ofwat, warned yesterday that some companies had only achieved their targets because of the mild winter, while others had a lot to do to achieve this year's targets.

He also rejected industry claims that the majority of companies were now close to their "economic" rate of leakage - the level at which it is cheaper to find new sources of water than to continue plugging leaks in the system.

Three companies - Anglian, Portsmouth and Mid Kent - failed to meet their leakage targets. Mr Byatt said he was satisfied with the explanations given by Portsmouth and Mid Kent. But he has put Anglian on probation, ordering the company to report to him on its progress every three months.

The industry's target was to reduce leakage levels by just over 5 per cent from 4,528 megalitres a day in 1996/97 to 4,285 megalitres a day in 1997/98. In the event leakage rates fell by 12 per cent to 3,980 megalitres a day. The target for the current year is a daily leak rate of 3,612 megalitres - a reduction of just over 9 per cent.

A spokesman for the industry body Water UK said the reduction in leakage was equivalent to the capacity of a medium sized reservoir. In the

past two years the industry had reduced leaks by enough to serve a city the size of Birmingham three times over.

The improvement in performance comes after severe criticism of the industry for failing to tackle leaks with sufficient vigour. Some firms, including Thames, are now offering to repair leaks on customers' premises free of charge. However, Thames has included a proviso stating that unless the offer is taken up households may be taken to court.

The national leakage rate is now down to about 20 per cent against what the industry regards as an "economic" rate of about 15 per cent. However Mr Byatt said the quality of the studies on which the industry based its estimates were not very high. "Not am I convinced by arguments made by the majority of companies that they are already close to their economic levels of leakage."

Thames had the highest level of leakage of any supplier at 906 megalitres a day. However, this was below its target of 962 megalitres and represented a 16 per cent fall on the previous year.

The biggest reduction in leakage rates was at the Folkestone and Dover water company which reduced leakage by 25 per cent. South West Water, which has the highest water bills in the country, achieved a 22 per cent reduction.

The regulator said Anglian had missed its target because it had discovered previously underestimated leakage, mainly from trunk mains.

TOTAL LEAKAGE: REPORTED FIGURES					
	96/97*	97/98*	97/98*	98/99*	reduction from 96/97 target to 97/98, %
Thames	1083	962	906	781	16
North West	666	705	579	515	13
Severn Trent	479	410	399	348	17
Yorkshire	420	434	368	363	12
Welsh Water	357	354	337	308	6
Anglian	236	211	235	205	0
Northumbrian	192	187	184	173	4
Wessex	129	124	110	103	15
South West	129	110	101	96	22
Southern	113	100	99	95	12
Total	3803	3597	3317	2867	13
Megalitres/day					

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RENAULT

DAVID MCKITTRICK

"Ballymoney joins the long, sad litany of places visited by death, where lives are taken and those of the survivors ruined"

— THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4 →

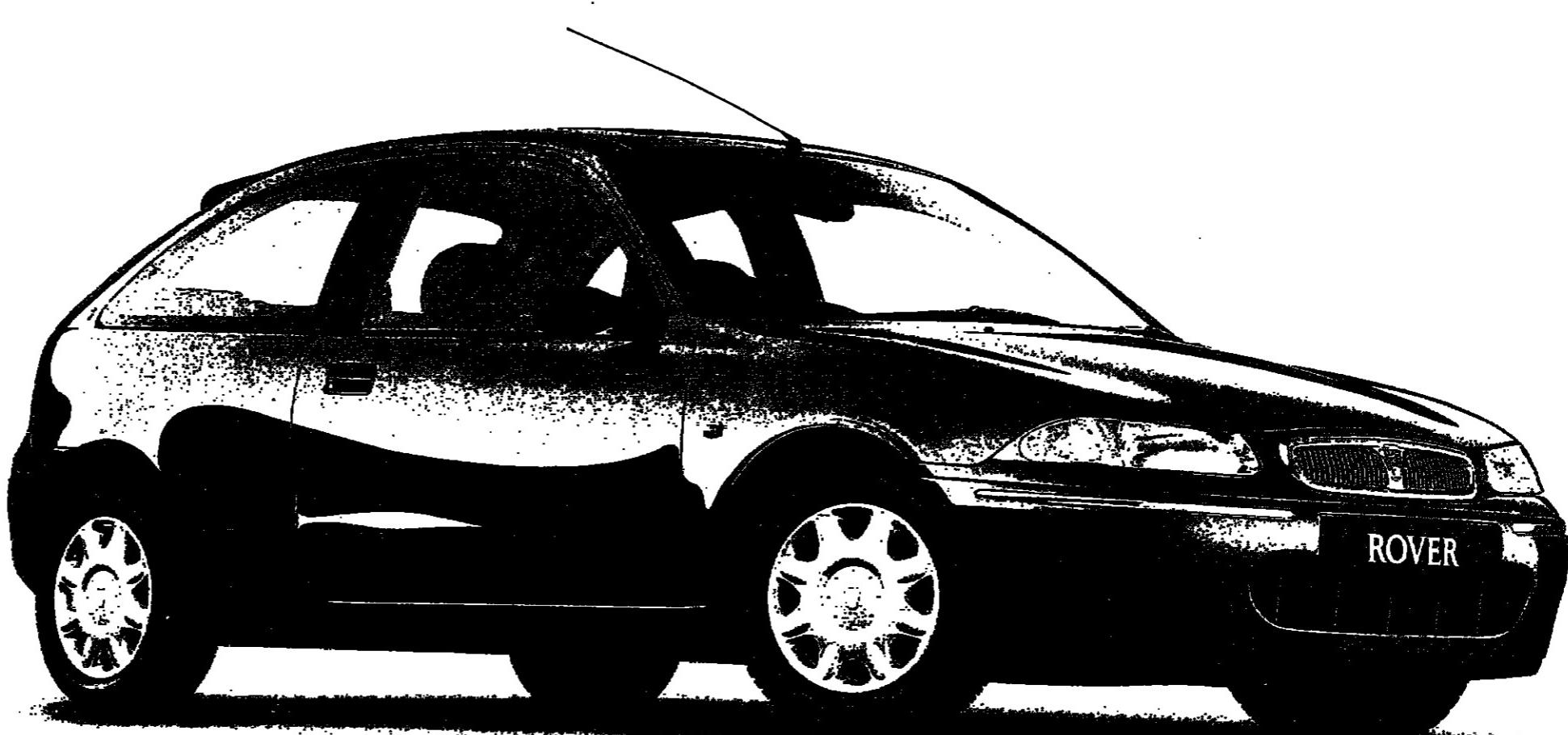


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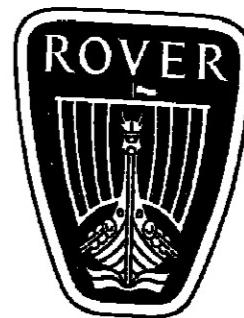
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Bibi is engulfed by legal scandal

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

IT IS a scandal which has everything. At its centre is the trial of Nahum Manbar, businessman and former Israeli paratrooper, found guilty last month, but not yet sentenced, for selling equipment to make poison gas to the Iranians.

This week he was to face Amnon Strashnov, the presiding judge in the trial, to receive what was likely to be a lengthy sentence. Instead the Israeli media and political elite was convulsed yesterday by allegations that Judge Strashnov was having an affair with one of the defence lawyers and also discussing the case with Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister.

Amnon Zichroni, Mr Manbar's lawyer, says he has firm evidence that the judge was having an affair with Anat Yanai, 26, a member of the defence team who has now been fired. He also says she was intimately involved with Shai Barak, the prime minister's spokesman. Mr Netanyahu had earlier demanded that Mr Manbar receive an exemplary sentence.

Not surprisingly the juiciness of the scandal meant that Israeli radio news yesterday covered the affair for 30 minutes before briefly turning to the UN's condemnation of Israel for planning to expand the borders of Jerusalem.

So far, at least, the Manbar affair resembles the Monica

Lewinsky scandal in Washington in that the accusations come primarily from a single, not very objective source, in this case Ms Yanai's ex-boyfriend. She herself denies having an affair with Judge Strashnov, a former army prosecutor known for tolerance to soldiers accused of breaking the arms and legs of Palestinians, though she once worked for him. Judge Strashnov says he cannot comment on the allegations.

Unfortunately for Mr Netanyahu he had already involved himself in the trial when Mr Manbar was found guilty by denouncing him and demanding that he receive a lengthy sentence. He said he should "pay heavily for the terrible thing he did".

Mr Manbar's fault is apparently that he at first sold weaponry to Iran with the permission of the Shin Bet, the domestic security agency, but refused to stop when they told him to. He was secretly arrested in 1997 when he landed at Tel Aviv airport.

Mr Manbar, understandably enough, says that he is guilty, so are several hundred other people. During the Iran-Iraq war between 1980 and 1988, Israel supplied Iran with high-technology weapons and spare parts for American-made aircraft.

Mr Manbar sent some 150 tons of equipment to Iraq to make chemical and biological weapons, but it is unclear where he purchased it. Some



Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, is accused of interfering in an arms dealer's trial Eyal Warshavsky

Mugabe speeds up plans to seize farms

ZIMBABWE'S WHITE farmers have been warned they could lose their land sooner than they had feared as the government speeds up a controversial land reallocation programme.

In a speech at the official opening of a new session of parliament yesterday the country's embattled President Robert Mugabe gave no fresh details of his drive to seize mostly white-owned commercial farms but said he was under pressure from land-hungry black peasants.

The 74-year-old president also hinted that he intends to curb the country's small but sharply critical independent press.

Last November Mr Mugabe listed about 1,500 commercial farms for the first phase of a programme he argues is vital to correcting the current land ownership imbalance, securing social peace and economically empowering the black majority.

The government says about 4,500 whites occupy 70 per cent of Zimbabwe's best farmland while more than 700,000 peasants are crowded in scrubby, infertile communal lands.

Many white farmers say

BY CRIS CHINAKA
in Harare

they accept the principle of land redistribution, but along with international donors say it should be voluntary and based on adequate compensation.

Initially Mr Mugabe insisted he would not pay for the land but just for the buildings and improvements, on the grounds that whites had "stolen" the land when they colonised the country in 1890.

However government ministers - but not Mr Mugabe - now say the issue of "full compensation" might be addressed if foreign donors support the 40 billion Zimbabwe dollars (£1.4bn) programme at a conference set for September.

Mr Mugabe hinted he was now looking to local rather than international sources of support.

"While we welcome the financial and material support from the donor community, we should always primarily rely on the strength and resources of our people."

The national land reform and resettlement programme will be accelerated in the current year," he said, reiterating that hundreds of peasants

would be resettled on 112 farms before the start of the 1998-99 November to April cropping season.

He said the programme was being brought forward in the wake of recent attempts by some peasants to occupy farms on their own.

On the eve of the opening of parliament, the embattled Mr Mugabe also warned he might curtail Zimbabwe's independent newspapers.

"We have seen tendencies in our press to try and sell their papers on the basis of manufactured lies and the so-called opposition press is thriving on lies," the official news agency Ziana quoted Mr Mugabe as saying at a reception on Monday night.

"Shall we allow this to continue? Shall papers of that nature be allowed to manufacture lies at the expense of individuals? I say no."

State-controlled newspapers, radio and television dominate Zimbabwe's media.

"Let the gutter press take heed because we are not going to have this kind of journalism in this country," Mr Mugabe said. "It cannot be freedom of expression if you are telling lies and defaming individuals."

German to be simplified

BY TONY CZUCZKA
in Bonn

quicken the flow of writing, new spellings and fewer exceptions to writing rules.

But opponents still hope to punch a hole in the reform. A 27 September referendum in Schleswig-Holstein would, if approved, legally bar the state from applying the changes, which culture ministers from Germany, Switzerland and Austria agreed in 1996.

The verdict sets a legal precedent for several other challenges against the reform, scheduled to take effect 1 August after years of debate over how to simplify one of the world's more complex languages. Changes include shortening lengthy compound words, cutting comma rules to

ing it "absolutely unnecessary in most respects." Signers included Germany's best-known author, Guenter Grass, who wrote *The Tin Drum*.

Some of the changes bring German closer to English. Sentences such as "He's the man who came to dinner" have needed a comma before "who" in German but won't require it in future.

And Germans will no longer "clean up" but "clean up" - as in "sauber machen". Other words will be spelled more phonetically. *Dolphin*, for example, will be spelled "Delfin" instead of "Dolphin". In German, nouns are capitalised - one thing that will stay the same under the new rules.

Rape evidence stalls war trial

BY JANET MCBRIDE
in The Hague

THE TRIAL of suspected war criminal Bosnian Croat Anto Furundzija ran into trouble yesterday when doubt was cast on the evidence of the prosecution's star witness.

The judges ordered the case to be reopened to allow further examination of rape testimony by the witness on whose evidence the case hinges.

Furundzija, the former commander of "The Jokers" a paramilitary special unit, was arrested by NATO-led troops in Vitez, central Bosnia last December. He is on trial for allegedly standing by as a subordinate raped and tortured a Muslim woman, Witness A, who is protected. She testified in closed session.

The chamber feels that the prosecution did not fulfil the mandate of disclosure and it did prejudice the right of the accused to a proper defence.

Furundzija, 29, sat quietly through the hearing, listening to the judges' comments through an interpreter. The prosecution's case hinges on Witness A, who is protected. She testified in closed session.

According to the indictment, Furundzija failed to intervene when another accused beat Witness A then forced her to have oral and vaginal intercourse with him at the Jokers' headquarters in a complex called "The Bungalow" in the town of Nadioci.

In the motion to annul Witness A's evidence, the defence accused prosecutors of withholding information showing the woman suffered psychological trauma, was under psychiatric care and subject to memory suppression.

The reopening of the Furundzija trial, probably at the end of August, and the judge's complaints are the latest in a spate of setbacks for the prosecution.

Sports Commentary by Nicky Clarke.

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Clinton leads war on millennium bug

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON yesterday announced a raft of new proposals to head off the year 2000 computer problem by encouraging companies to help themselves. The United States' approach is likely to shape responses around the world.

The Year 2000, or Y2K problem (called the millennium bug in Britain) is caused by bad programming. Computer programmers set dates on computers to store only the last two digits of the year, and thus 2000 is indistinguishable from 1900. Apparently programmers did not foresee that the year 2000 would occur shortly after 1999. Now, the computer industry wants to be bailed out from a problem which it created. It is also concerned that it may be held legally responsible for its mistakes.

Mr Clinton proposed shielding companies from liability for advice and information that they offer to others in solving the problem. The "Good Samaritan" legislation which he proposed would make it easier for companies to set up clearing houses for solutions. Companies would still, however, be liable for any problems with products or machines which they themselves had produced. The plan would also include an information technology job site on the World Wide Web where employers could meet experts. And it would fund \$12m (£7m) to support the World Bank's campaign to improve awareness of the problem in the developing world. Many poorer countries have spent large sums on machines that will simply fail to work.

The problem may well be bigger for America than anywhere else because so much of every-

day life relies on computers. The President will launch a Council on Year 2000 Conversion later this month to bring together public and private sector experts on the problem, and study how to remedy it. Wall Street held a dress rehearsal for the millennium on Monday, loading its computers with data for 29 December 1999 and simulating what happens three days afterwards when the trades are completed. The rehearsal will continue for two weeks, and is intended to prepare the ground for a much larger test next year. The exercise involved 29 securities firms and 12 exchanges, but it was limited to one country. The fear is that when the champagne corks pop, stock markets connected across the world will react in different ways, producing chaos.

The securities industry is spending up to \$6bn to make itself millennium-compliant.

As well as defending itself, Wall Street is busily scurrying to find ways of making money out of the millennium crash. Securities firm Merrill Lynch has produced a report reviewing companies' responses, and estimating which are good investments on the strength of it. It concludes that while there is a problem for a number of sectors, including banking and utilities, it is not catastrophic. And the computer companies - which caused the problem in the first place - are benefiting by selling solutions to customers who bought the badly-designed machines.

If Congress does not pass legislation against the tobacco industry, the White House will consider suing the industry to recover health care costs, a spokesman said yesterday. The Republicans defeated plans to raise cigarette prices and limit the industry.



Women gather in Baghdad yesterday on the 10th anniversary of the coup that toppled the Iraqi monarchy. AFP

Gucci murder trial in turmoil

BY ANNE HANLEY
in Rome

THE ALLEGED murder of luxury leatherwear magnate Maurizio Gucci was a family affair arranged not only by his former wife, Patrizia Reggiani, but by her aged mother too, according to Giuseppina Aurientma, the Neapolitan medium on trial for setting up the Gucci killing in March 1995.

In a spontaneous statement which threw yesterday's session of the Gucci murder trial into disarray, Ms Aurientma said she had withheld the whole truth since being arrested in February 1997. "I always said that no one else knew about the killing, but now I admit that Silvana Bartieri knew everything," she claimed. "They'd been trying to find a killer for years."

Ms Aurientma dropped her bombshell on the day that the former Mrs Gucci took the witness stand for the first time to convince the court that her often-expressed wish to see her former husband dead was no more than the deluded fantasy of a sick woman.

"I asked everyone and anyone to murder him ... It was an obsession," Ms Reggiani told the court. To then take concrete steps to make her obsession come true, she argued yesterday, would have been madness. "Do you honestly think," she asked, "that when the whole world knew that I was looking



Patrizia Reggiani leaving court yesterday AP

for a killer, I'd go to Aurientma and ask her to find me one?"

Ms Aurientma maintains that what happened. She has admitted to contacting hotel owner Ivano Stavioni, who found a driver and a hitman to dispose of Gucci on 27 March 1995. But while says she acted on precise orders, Ms Reggiani says her former friend used her own initiative. "I absolutely deny having ordered Gucci's murder," she said in court.

The relationship between the Guccis began to fall apart in the early Nineties. After a stormy divorce in 1994, Ms Reggiani began to dwell on the need to dispose of Gucci who was, she feared, squandering her two daughters' inheritance. At that point, she says, she began verbalising what were no more than homicidal fantasies. The trial continues.

Spain's rising star befriends Blair

BY ELIZABETH NASH
in Madrid

SPAIN'S SOCIALIST Party leader, Josep Borrell, arrives in Britain tomorrow for his first meeting with Tony Blair at the invitation of the Foreign Office, who always like to check out a potential future European prime minister.

So seismic has been the impact of Mr Borrell's unexpected election as party leader in April, that the Socialists' expectation of years in the wilderness have yielded to the prospect of electoral victory within two years. A weekend poll gave the ruling Popular Party a lead over the Socialists of only 1.4 points and the Socialists always deliver more votes than polls predict.

Mr Blair is likely to hit it off with Mr Borrell, not just because of their obvious political sympathy, but because their personal and political style have much in common. Mr Borrell approaches his predecessor Felipe Gonzalez in skill and charisma, and behind his articulate defence of social justice and equality, he carries light ideological baggage in a party that puts personalities before policies.

A former public works min-

ister, Mr Borrell, 53, defeated Mr Gonzalez's hand-picked successor as party leader after receiving overwhelming support in Spain's first primaries. He will be scrutinising the experience of New Labour for lessons on how to consolidate his position in the party machine and transmute that support into electoral victory.

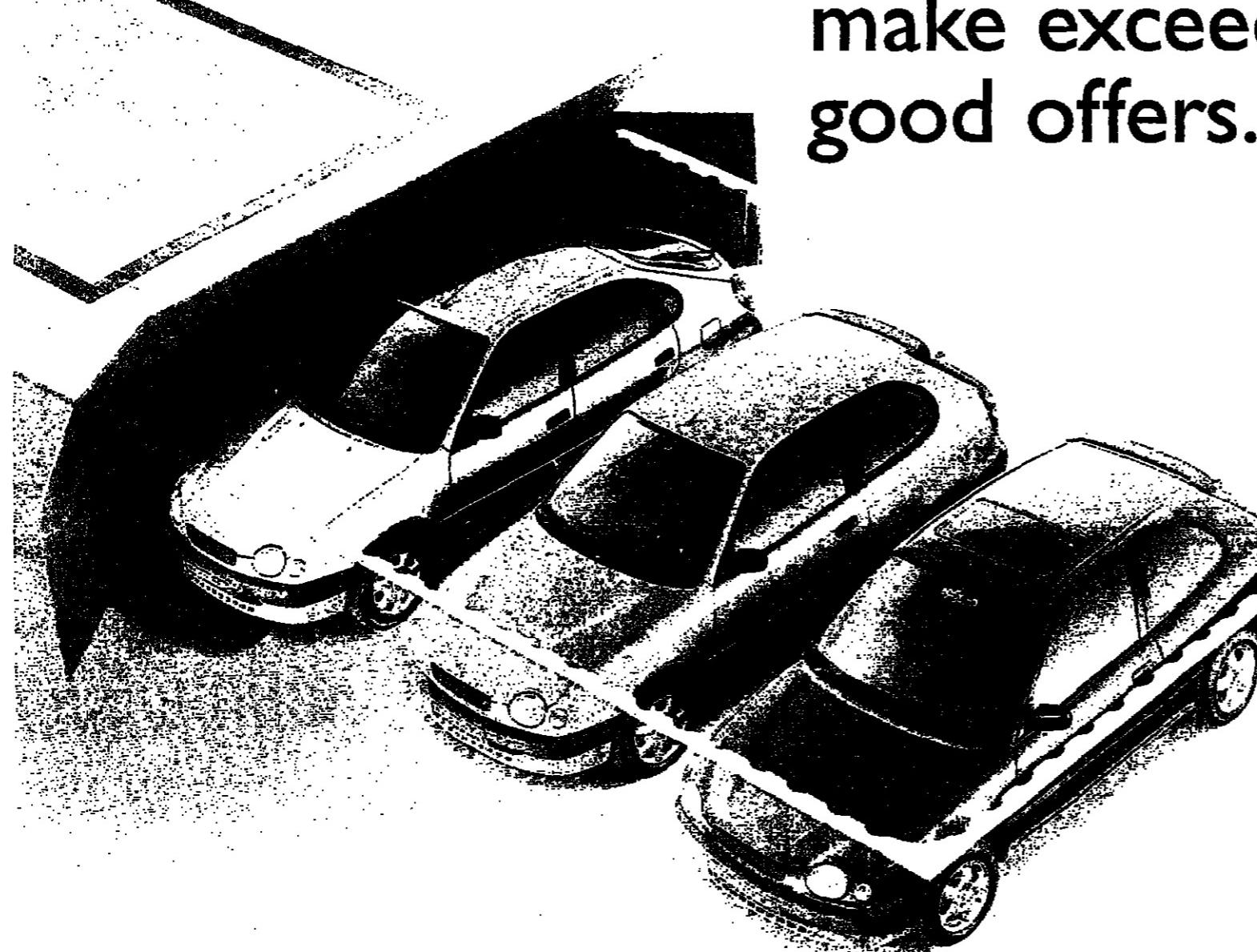
The Labour Party has picked up on the Socialists' concern about Mr Blair's blossoming relationship with Spain's Conservative Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar. Mr Aznar always on the lookout for powerful European friends, declares his affinity with Mr Blair whom he calls "my friend" and "a centralist like me".

Diplomatic sources suggest the friendship is reciprocated, and that Mr Blair was flattered by the warm welcome Mr Aznar extended to Cherie Blair, their children and his mother-in-law during their brief visit at Easter. Spain's Socialists feared the bond between the two young prime ministers could leave Mr Borrell - Mr Blair's natural political ally - scampering to cover lost ground. Tony Blair's popularity is huge in Spain, and the meeting will enhance Mr Borrell's standing.

MILES KINGTON

"Hewitt tells how he has spent the last year looking for all the relics of Diana which were going to make him rich"

— THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 2 →



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مكتبة العمل

Indonesian troops on torture charges

SEVEN MEMBERS of an elite army unit, led by the son-in-law of former president Suharto, were arrested yesterday for kidnapping and torturing opponents of the former Indonesian leader. The arrests came after a statement by the military hinting that members of the Indonesian special forces, known as Kopassus, may have played a part in the riots that led to Mr Suharto's downfall.

This appears to confirm what has been rumoured in Indonesia for months that elements within the army played an active role in suppressing the democratic movement, and may even have stirred up instability as a prelude to seizing power.

A spokesman for the Indonesian armed forces (Abri) said members of Kopassus were involved in the abduction and imprisonment of nine political activists on the orders of their former commander, General Prabowo Subianto, the husband of one of Mr Suharto's daughters.

Several Kopassus personnel were involved in the kid-

naping and unauthorised detention of Pius Lutrij Anang, Desmond Mabesa, Hayyanto Taslam, Andi Arief, Feisal Reza and Rahardjo Wahyu, as well as the unauthorised detention of Nezar Patria Alan Rusdiantoro and Mugiyanto," the Abri statement said.

"They are suspected of having violated procedures, which started from some order from the head of Kopassus, to uncover radical activities. However, in carrying it out, actions which exceeded the limits were committed, with the unauthorised detention of the victims in violation of the law."

Several of the abducted described being taken from the streets, blindfolded, and held in windowless cells, where they were questioned about their political activities and tortured with electric shocks. Eight were eventually released and several later fled abroad. Rumours of General Prabowo's complicity in the abductions have been cir-

culating in Jakarta for months, but this is the first time that the possibility of his involvement has been publicly acknowledged by the military.

Even more intriguing is the hint that elements in the military may have engineered two days of rioting that brought to an end Mr Suharto's 32-year rule a week later. The Abri statement said it had identified the existence of "several people" who engineered the riots on 13 and 14 May. Based on the findings, it can be concluded that the incident [the rioting] was extremely complex and represented an accumulation of social, political and economic problems - which had been buried for a long time - which exploded under the 'medium of reform' that dashed the pillars of law, as well as the nation's moral ethics," it said.

An ambitious and precociously successful officer, General Prabowo was removed from the command of Kopassus the day after Mr Suharto's resignation on 21 March by the armed forces commander. Gen-

eral Wiranto. According to politicians and foreign diplomats in Jakarta the generals were engaged in a fierce struggle for power within Abri, in which General Wiranto won.

They speculate that troops loyal to General Prabowo deliberately inflamed local people, triggering the riots. On the pretext of restoring order and protecting Mr Suharto, they would then have seized power. A senior source in Jakarta said that on 20 May, the night before Mr Suharto's resignation, Kopassus troops took up positions overlooking the national parliament, which had been taken over by student protesters. They intended to fire on the students, but stood down after General Prabowo failed to find the necessary support from other commanders.

In a separate report, an organisation in Jakarta called the Volunteers of Humanity claimed that at least 162 women, most of them of Chinese descent, were raped during the May riots.

Hong Kong sacks its PR chief

THE HONG KONG government is about to get rid of Thomas Chan, its chief spin doctor, a sure sign that this accident-prone administration is desperate to find a way of restoring confidence.

Floundering governments have a habit of blaming their problems on bad public relations and so it is hardly surprising that senior Hong Kong officials want a new boss for the very large Government Information Services department.

Public relations disasters are hitting Hong Kong from every direction. The latest disaster, the bungling of the new airport opening, has struck at the territory's most vulnerable point because it is undermining

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

its role as a major trading centre. Before that, the administration was battling to retain credibility as it tried to pretend that Hong Kong was somehow immune from the Asian financial crisis. Now officials have been forced to admit the economy is going into recession.

Every day brings new evidence of the government's plunging opinion-poll ratings, and even its most stalwart supporters are expressing doubts about its competence.

Faced by a truly amazing succession of climatic problems and health and food poisoning scares, the government

has managed to compound these natural disasters by its management of the problems.

Meanwhile, Tung Chee-hwa, the chief executive, has gone to ground. Part of his problem is that he does not trust the officials around him and is immersed in an extraordinary battle for control of the government machinery between his pro-Peking advisers and the civil service machine he inherited from the British.

The pro-Peking lobby has developed something close to an obsession about getting rid of his deputy, Anson Chan, the head of the civil service, an old-school bureaucrat with popularity ratings consistently far higher than those of Mr Tung.

The chief executive and Anson Chan claim to be working amicably together but in reality their relationship is fraught. Mr Tung is loath to allow the highly competent Mrs Chan to take charge of the crises, fearing that she will overshadow him. She is aware of this sensitivity and, until recently, has kept well in the background. Now she is becoming more assertive.

Paralysed by the infighting, Mr Tung is seen as increasingly ineffective. His only consistent supporters are the leaders in Peking, who spare no opportunity to lavish praise on him. It is a sign of their detachment from Hong Kong reality that they have no idea how counterproductive their plaudits are.



Women sit beneath a statue of Gandhi at the Indian parliament, protesting at the deferment of a Bill ensuring a third of seats are reserved for females AP

IN BRIEF

Algerian media stage protest

ABOUT 100 journalists held a noisy protest outside the Algiers office of the Algerian Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia yesterday to protest against an order to evict colleagues from a hotel where they live under government protection. The journalists called for "Freedom, Dignity and Security" during the one-hour rally.

Israel berated

ISRAELS REPORT to the United Nations on its human-rights record was attacked by international rights groups. Amnesty said the lack of mention of Palestinian territories was "unacceptable ... given the scale ... of the human-rights violations". Human Rights Watch, based in New York, said the report "seriously misrepresents Israel's human-rights record."

Kenya news ban

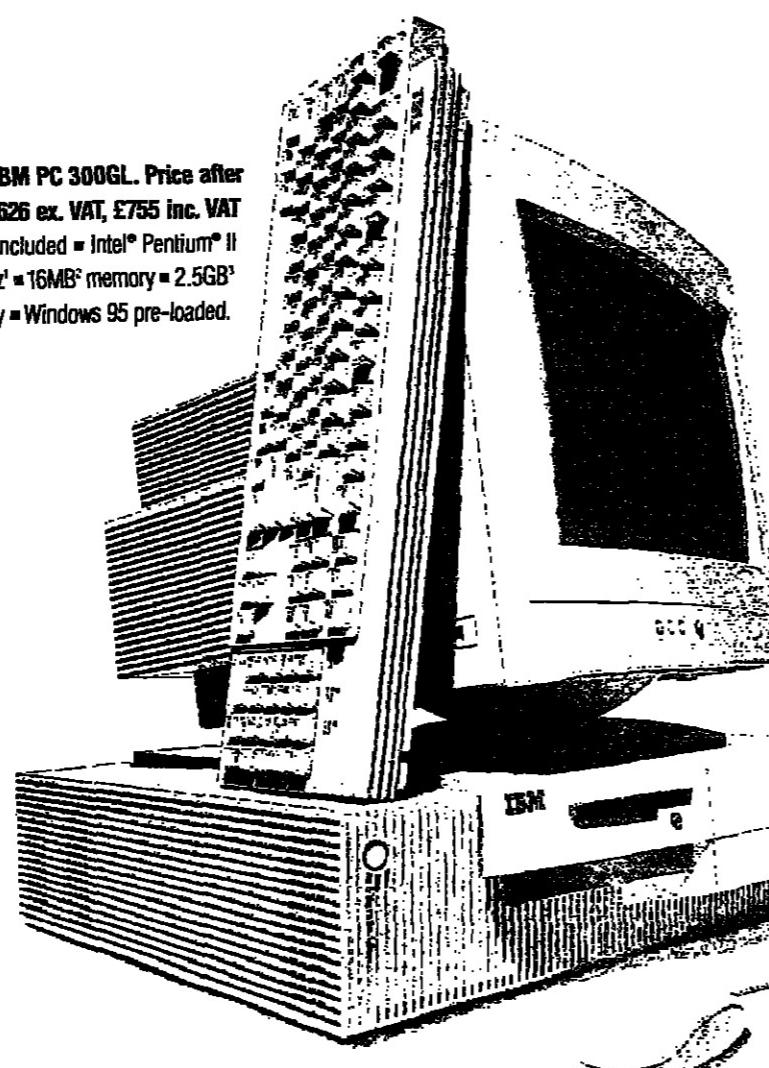
PROTESTS AGAINST THE Kenyan government's decision effectively to ban three local newspapers grew yesterday with 25 diplomatic missions expressing concern and disappointment at the move. A statement from the embassies of the biggest and most influential donor countries said the move was "without apparent justification".

Papal discord

AS VOICES go, it wouldn't win any Grammy awards, but Pope John Paul's low, hoarse and not always on-key tones are jealously guarded, as the Roman fashion designer, Kean Eto, discovered when he planned to use a snippet of papal Gregorian chant for his haute couture fashion show tomorrow. He had to change his tune when Vatican lawyers threatened legal action.

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Scavenging Palestinian boys and the sparsely tenanted Nativity Hotel (left) near Bethlehem mirror the economic failure of the occupied territories since Oslo. David Silver



Israelis check a hotelier's dream

GUESTS DO not always find it easy to get to the Nativity Hotel in Beit Jalla near Bethlehem. Saliba Tareh, 60, the Palestinian owner, says that last year 13 busloads of pilgrims from Italy, led by an archbishop, had to fall to their knees to pray before they were allowed to proceed past the Israeli checkpoint on the road from Jerusalem.

Almost five years ago, Mr Tareh, a retired insurance agent, and his family decided to build the Nativity Hotel at a cost of \$3m (£1.8m) in the first flush of enthusiasm after the signing of the Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestinians in 1993. "I thought peace was coming," said Mr Tareh. "Originally, I was going to build a commercial centre. After the Israelis signed with the Palestinians I decided to open a hotel instead."

It is a decision he has had

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Bethlehem

time to regret. Just at the moment, the Nativity Hotel – a pleasant airy building with 90 rooms – has only 20 guests, who are paying less than \$35 a night. It has seldom been more than 20 per cent full since Yasser Arafat officially opened it in April 1996. A photograph on the wall shows a happy-looking Mr Tareh standing beside the Palestinian leader with a knife in his hand as he cuts a cake.

The fate of the hotel mirrors the economic failure of Oslo. Palestinian living standards have fallen by between one-quarter and one-third since it was agreed. Salem Ajluni, a United Nations economist in Gaza, says: "There has been a 25-30 per cent decline in Palestinian per capita GNP [gross national product] since 1992."

The European Commission gives a higher figure of a 35 per cent drop.

In both cases, the reason for the decline is given as the division of the areas in which 2.5 million Palestinians live in Gaza and the West Bank into economic islands. From 1993, it became difficult for Palestinians to move in and out of Gaza or Jerusalem. "The closure policy was institutionalised and expanded to include Jerusalem in that year," Mr Ajluni said.

Fixed Israeli checkpoints were put on the roads. There is one on the road between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, opposite the new Jewish settlement at Har Homa. To travel to Jerusalem to meet travel agents to try to bring guests to his hotel, Mr Tareh, a distinguished looking grey-haired man, must first get a permit to enter Jerusalem and is al-

lowed to bring his car. "Do I look like a terrorist?" he asks. "Am I likely to bring a bomb?"

But it is Israeli checkpoints, like the one on the Bethlehem road, that form an obstacle course which stifles Palestinian commercial life, ensuring that Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority (PA) does not become a single economic entity. "They continue to be run like roadblocks in the days of the Ottoman empire," writes Arie Caspi in the *Haaretz* newspaper. "Any reserve sergeant stationed at a West Bank or Gaza roadblock can cause the PA damage amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars."

The biggest loss for the Palestinians is that they are prevented from going to work in Israel on a regular basis. This in turn means that they are less attractive to an Israeli employer who does not know if his

workforce will be able to get to work through the checkpoints. The number of Palestinians working in Israel has fallen by two-thirds since 1993.

The same fragmentation of their economy hits Palestinian farmers in Gaza growing flowers or fruit. In 1996, farmers there were feeding their donkeys on carnations, which they could not export because of an Israeli closure. These days they are shifting back to growing potatoes.

Mr Tareh's hotel was largely financed by his relatives, Greek Orthodox Christians from Beit Jalla, who emigrated to Chile, Peru and the United States. Overall, however, foreign investment in the occupied territories has dried up since 1997, because the movement of people and goods is too vulnerable to Israeli restrictions.

Ironically, on the same day

as Mr Tareh was explaining his problems in the empty lobby of his hotel, the Israeli cabinet put out a self-congratulatory statement saying that the Palestinian economy had expanded since Oslo. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said that "if there has been a pattern of positive development in the Palestinian economy, this is purely as a result of Israeli policy". He attacked the "centralist economic policy of the Palestinian Authority" for slowing growth.

Foreign economists are mystified about the source of Mr Netanyahu's information and nothing could be less "centralist" than the isolated Palestinian enclaves ruled by Mr Arafat. In the meantime, Mr Tareh does not intend to give up. Looking none too hopeful, he said: "My only alternative is to close and I won't do that."

BY PATRICK COOKBURN

ber. But the Lagos-based *This Day* newspaper said the handover might be put back to the end of March.

A prominent opposition group has threatened to boycott the official plans for a transition to democracy, which are expected to be announced this week, perhaps today. The Joint Action Committee on Nigeria called for a government of national unity, as the only way to heal the country's wounds. The group's leader, a Lagos lawyer, Gani Fawehinmi, said: "We want a sense of national well-being."

The committee has called for a national conference to discuss ways in which Nigeria's southerners are given a role in government of the country. Dozens have died in riots following the death of Abiola, a Yoruba southerner.

The protests were as ethnic as they were political: many of those who were attacked were from the north. Observers fear that north-south splits within the country could weaken Nigeria, with potentially disastrous consequences.

Supporters of Abiola have been deeply critical of some of the comments from abroad.

The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, has been criticised for making statements "with no foundation in truth".

Mr Annan had suggested that Abiola was ready to give up his claim to be president in return for his liberty. Abiola's supporters deny that he was ready to compromise in this way.



Subject to availability. Vehicles must be registered by September 25, 1998. Price based on Manufacturer's Recommended Retail Price. OPTIONS TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Mondeo (per annum): £12,000. Deposit: £6,832. Balance: £12,688. Total Credit Charges: £2,812.04 (including £70 finance facility fee payable with first monthly payment). Quotations available on request. Prepaid FCE Bank plc. Excludes certain fleet/business users. *Free 3 year 'One Star' Extra Cover Plan - un-

سيارات العمل

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

US banks post record results

US BANKS Merrill Lynch and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette yesterday posted record second-quarter results but watched their shares slip as they failed to beat Wall Street's expectations by as wide a margin as they have in the recent past. Giant brokerage house Merrill, which earned a record \$545m in the quarter, fell a penny shy of analysts' expectations. DLJ earned \$142.3m in the quarter, up 42 per cent from \$100.2m a year ago. The investment bank beat analysts' expectations by 3 cents, according to research firm First Call. Merrill's 1998 second-quarter results included a \$56m non-cash charge, mostly to amortise its \$5.3bn acquisition of UK portfolio manager Mercury Asset Management.

In a rising overall market, Merrill's stock shed \$2.81 to \$105.125. DLJ slipped \$1.31 to \$61.75 in New York shortly after midday.

Goode Durrant profits up

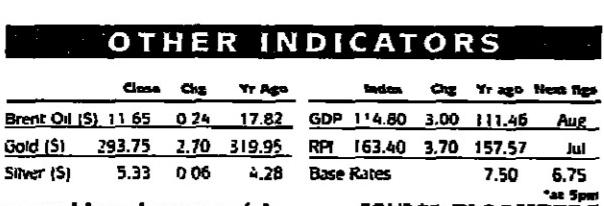
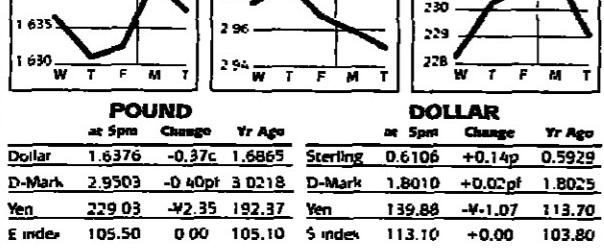
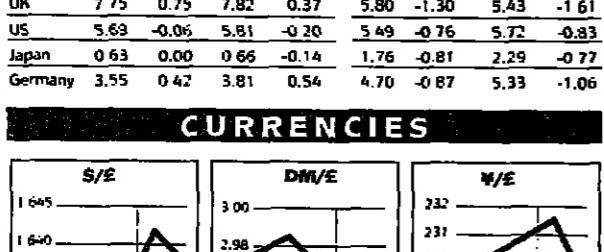
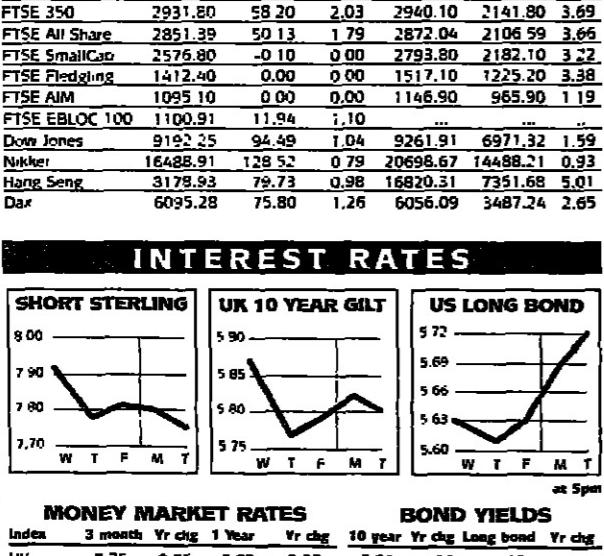
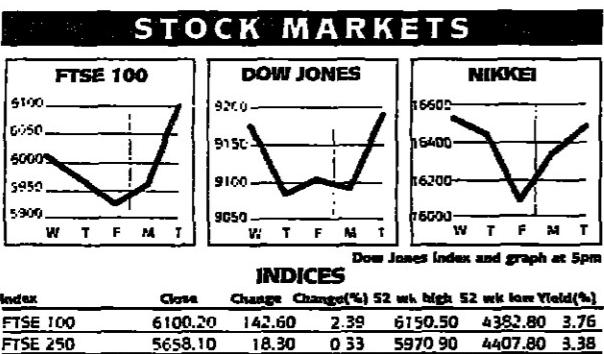

STRONG GROWTH in its van hire business helped Goode Durrant, the commercial vehicle rental group, to increase profits and turnover last year. The company yesterday posted an increase of nearly 20 per cent in pre-tax profit to £25.5m on turnover in continuing operations up 49 per cent to £187.8m. Goode Durrant's performance was driven by a 30 per cent leap to £38.3m at Northgate, its commercial vehicle division, which benefited from steady hire rates and falling new van prices.

Investment Column, page 23

Council tries to halt bid meeting

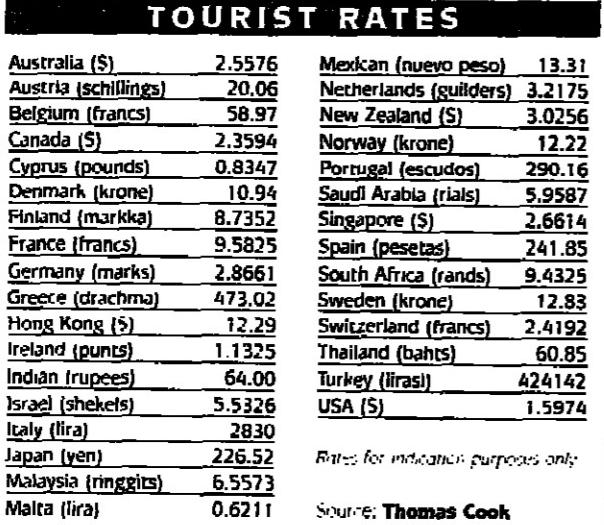
HULL CITY COUNCIL yesterday tried to block councillors from meeting LandTel Communications, the US shell company which is attempting to buy a stake in Kingston Communications, the municipally owned telecom operator. The council's town clerk has written to LandTel's chairman, citing corruption laws and warning that an offer to brief councillors on the bid over dinner at a 3-star hotel might be referred to the police.

A LandTel spokesman said: "This must be the first time in history that a public offer to invest in a company has run the risk of being referred to the police." The company is planning to hold a press conference in Hull this morning.



www.bloomberg.com/uk

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG



Source: Thomas Cook

Stocks buoyant as inflation figures soothe rate fears

BY LEA PATERSON

THE BLUE-CHIP FTSE 100 index soared by more than 140 points yesterday to close above 6,100, following the publication of lower-than-expected inflation figures and the Government's comprehensive spending review.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said both the headline and underlying rates of inflation fell by 0.1 per cent in May to 2.8 per cent in June, it is now just 0.3 per cent above the Bank of England's inflation target, and some economists were yesterday predicting inflation would be back on target level by the autumn. The year-on-year

headline rate of inflation was 3.7 per cent in June, down from 4.2 per cent in May.

Some observers in the City said the fall in inflation appeared to vindicate the decision by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to keep rates on hold last week. Paul Mortimer-Lee at Paribas was among those who speculated that the MPC had a good idea of the inflation picture when it met last week.

Mr Mortimer-Lee said: "The MPC probably had a good sniff of these figures: the better numbers may have encouraged them to stay their hand for

presentational reasons."

The ONS denied that it had given the MPC advance warning of the inflation figures. However, a spokesman said that the ONS did give both Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, prior notice of the figures six days before official publication.

Mr George is a member of the MPC, and has the casting vote if the committee is split down the middle on its rate decision.

Shares rose and the pound fell as City fears of a rate rise receded. The FTSE 100 closed

the day up 142 points at 6,100.2, and gained 35 points immediately following announcement of details of the comprehensive spending review.

Some in the City highlighted the stubborn price inflation in the service sector, currently running at 3.2 per cent. "We need to see more convincing signs of a slowdown in activity in services before inflation starts to cool off," Mr Laynes said.

Eric Fishwick of Nikko Europe said that the inflation figures were of less relevance to the interest-rate outlook than the next batch of average earnings figures, due to be released today.

Albert Fisher review after fresh plunge

BY TERRY MACALISTER

SHARES in hard-pressed food group, Albert Fisher, plunged over 18 per cent yesterday to a record low after the food producer issued its second profits warning in five months.

The chief executive, Neil England, promised strategic and financial reviews of the business to reverse its "unacceptable" share and trading performance. He admitted that this could lead to large-scale disposals or even a break-up of the company similar to the one proposed for rival Hillsdown, which uses the same financial adviser, Lazar Brothers.

A team of independent consultants should be chosen on Monday with a brief to complete no-holds-barred reviews of the business before the end of September.

The future of the dividend is uncertain. It would be reconsidered in the light of the reviews, said the company, whose chairman, Stephen Walls, sat at the end of next month.

Albert Fisher has been struggling to reorganise after four years of price pressure from food stores. Its shares rallied briefly last year after a proposed takeover bid but this came to nothing.

In the first half of the year, Albert Fisher posted a net loss of £26.1m, with pre-tax profits before exceptional items of £2.6m.

Yesterday shares fell 45p to 19p after the company said the earnings in the six months to 31 August would "fall somewhat

short" of the first half result. Analysts downgraded 1998 Albert Fisher profit forecasts from £23m to £22.5m.

Tim Potter, food analyst at Merrill Lynch, said: "This review should have been carried out years ago. The latest problems are disappointing but not totally out of character. They must be hoping a bid will come along but I think it is unlikely."

Albert Fisher reported problems in four main areas. These were:

The sale of salad products had been low due to bad weather, while frozen foods were hit by a poor pea crop;

Fruit prices had been lower than expected, while new sourcing operations had suffered from teething problems and higher financing costs;

Raw materials prices continued to be volatile in North America; and

The unwinding of the EU drawn ban had created market instability.

Albert Fisher's share price, Source: Datamann

ALBERT FISHER Share price, pence



Tide finally turns for public sector

PREDICTING THE future is always a mug's game. The best laid plans invariably go wrong. The Chancellor looks destined to find this out the hard way, having yesterday tied himself into grandiose long-term spending proposals which, in their time frame, detail and rhetoric, seem strangely reminiscent of the early Soviet Five Year Plans.

The problem is that having promised education and the National Health Service their extra 5 per cent a year, having announced "the largest hospital building programme in NHS history", having earmarked £3.8bn to houses estate improvements, having pledged an extra £1bn for science, once committed to a £44m rise in spending on the World Service, and so on and so forth, it's very hard to go back on it all when economic conditions cease to justify such largess.

To be fair, this was what the Government was elected to do, and at present, the state of the economy and the public finances seem just about able to support the programme. Furthermore, the Government may actually be introducing a much needed element of stability into the economy by breaking with the annual spending round



OUTLOOK

and the uncertainty that always surrounds it. Unfortunately, the plans leave virtually no room for error; the prospect of the Chancellor coming in on-budget three years hence therefore seems about as likely as a month of Sundays. The only question is how much off it we'll be.

The Government has failed to find any savings at all in the social security budget, despite the mileage Labour made out of this issue ahead of the election. And in order to get the figures to add up, it has been forced to resort both to selling off assets and to a degree of creative accounting. Reduced debt interest payments have been treated as extra spending money.

All that said, the overall balance of the package seems reasonable enough. Provided the Government can, as it promises, confine the extra spending largely to capital investment, and it doesn't all get eaten up in extra public sector pay and employment, then nobody in the City is going to complain too much about the way the money is being thrown around.

None the less, no one should under-estimate the significance of what was announced yesterday. After 19 years of siege, of attempting to hold back or reduce government spending, the public sector has finally been judged as something worth investing in once more. This is quite a change and we know not yet where it will lead us.

Muddle over savings reforms

GOVERNMENT POLICY on savings is in a mess. The savings industry knows it better than anyone. Labour came to power filled with good intentions, determined to provide the sort of incentives necessary to make the less well-off save more

for old age, unemployment and ill-health, but everything it does seems to be gently fountaining in a sea of contradictions.

The trouble is that life companies are so much on the back foot these days, so discredited by the pensions mis-selling scandal, such an object of public contempt, that they seem powerless to warn the Government of the traps that lie ahead; nobody wants to listen to them.

The biggest problem is this. The Government plans shortly to introduce a new tax-efficient savings plan, the Individual Savings Account, to replace Tessa's and Peps, which it rightly sees as too skewed towards middle class savers, those that don't need to be given a tax incentive to save.

Fair enough, but when combined with the abolition of tax credits on dividends, the effect is substantially to reduce the tax break compared to these older established products. It may be that the middle classes don't need tax breaks to save, but it is not clear the ISA is sufficient an advance on what went before in terms of access and flexibility to attract the lower paid either.

ISAs would in any case become an irrelevance if the Government introduces compulsion into its new stakeholder pension. After repeated delays, the Government's pension proposals are finally due to be wheeled into the cold light of day this autumn. The industry is deeply divided over the idea of compulsion, the prospect of all that extra business having to be weighed against the realisation that the Government won't allow life companies to charge more than a pittance for it. One thing is certain, however. Compulsion will kill the rest of the savings industry stone dead, ISAs along with it.

The danger with the stakeholder pension has always been that people will regard it both as a substitute for other forms of savings and in itself a sufficient safety net for old age, obviating the need for any additional saving. That's been the experience in Australia where the rest of the savings industry has died since compulsory saving for pensions was introduced.

The painful truth is that the low-paid find it difficult to save, period. It may be that the Government will improve the situation a little with a compulsory stakeholder pension, but Peter Lilley's radical plan to privatise the state pension and switch

it to a fully funded basis, so derided by Labour in opposition, still looks the better long-term bet.

Albert Fisher's list of excuses

IT IS UNUSUAL for a company to announce a "fundamental strategic and financial review" in response to what are described as short-term and presumably therefore temporary setbacks. But the food group Albert Fisher long since ceased to be the usual sort of company.

The profit warnings have come thick and fast over the years while the excuses have grown as exotic as the sources it serves up with its succulent seafood dishes. Previous explanations have included frozen cockle beds and lettuce blights. This time around the culprits are the weather and the European Union, which have left Albert Fisher short on peas and long on prawns. The English summer has not helped, creating a veritable mountain of unsold salad, while El Nino is probably in the mix somewhere.

The upshot is that that the recovery which was promised as re-

cently as April has disappeared like chicken nuggets at a children's party. The management cannot even tell us what trading will be like this month let alone next.

The raw prawns in all this have been shareholders who have watched the share price underperform the market by 85 per cent since Stephen Walls took the helm six years ago. Mr Walls, who still managed to pocket £35,000 last year for his troubles, has mercifully agreed to do the decent thing and pack his bags.

But it is not apparent that the remaining management can pull the fat out of the fire. The man from Mars, Neil England, has been there 18 months and has nothing to show but a series of phantom deals to go with the phantom profits – like the failed offer from the US food group Chiquita and the buyout of the fish business which never materialised.

Hence the fundamental review. One option would be to dispose of the fresh produce arm, which operates in a fragmented market where margins are notoriously thin, and concentrate on food processing. That may be the solution the independent consultants and Lazard come up with but not before their fees have nibbled a bit more off the shrinking dividend.

News Analysis: Dog food is the latest bone of contention between the supermarkets and high-priced brands

*Asda bites back in prices battle

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

ASDA HAS fired another shot in the supermarket battle against higher-priced consumer brands with plans to cut the price of a premium-priced pet food and launch its own lower-priced alternative, after being refused supply from the manufacturer.

Asda has obtained a limited supply of Eukanuba dog food from the European grey market and will start selling the bags in 15 stores at up to 15 per cent off on Thursday. The supermarket group thinks its initial stock will last about a week but expects subsequent supplies to be blocked by the manufacturer, which prefers to sell its product through veterinary surgeries and specialist pet shops.

"We sent four letters to Iams UK [the manufacturer] seeking supplies but we never heard back," Asda said. "It is pretty clear that they don't want to supply us. They obviously don't want their products sold in a supermarket environment."

Asda's latest assault on higher prices comes just two days ahead of a key European court ruling, which will determine whether UK supermarkets can source higher-value brands from markets outside the European Union.

The ruling relates to a dispute between the Austrian sunglasses brand Silhouette and the retailer Hartlauer. Hartlauer bought sunglasses from a Bulgarian distributor to sell at a discount, but the European Court's advocate general said a 1998 European trademark directive meant that any trademark owner within the EU can prevent its products from being imported into EU countries without its consent.

The European Court is expected to adopt the advocate general's opinion in its ruling on Thursday. Asda said: "If that happens it will make it very difficult for UK supermarkets to obtain grey market supplies from outside the EU."

Asda says the US is the biggest source of grey market products while Tesco has previously secured supplies of Levi jeans from Mexico, against the manufacturer's wishes.

Branded goods find their way on to the grey market via a variety of sources. Sometimes they come from the manufacturers themselves, which are keen to sell end-of-line stock or ranges which have not sold well. Other sources include retailers, which may deliberately over-order from manufacturers and then sell surplus



COMPARING THE COSTS		
Eukanuba (3kg)	Asda	Specialist pet shop
Junior	£9.39	£10.99
Puppy	£9.89	£10.99
Regular	£8.79	£9.79
Levi 501s	£30	£49
Adidas 3 stripe youth T-shirt	£11	£15.99
Nike men's Trimax Trainers	£45	£79.99
Ralph Lauren chino shirt	£35	£75
England Umbro football shirt	£33	£45

Asda is fighting over the price of gourmet dog food (top left). Meanwhile Tesco finds cut-price supplies of brands such as (left to right) Adidas, Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger

stock on to the grey market for a quick profit. Licensed factories may also produce more of the branded goods than their licence stipulates and sell the rest on.

Catrin Turner, head of intellectual property at the litigation experts Davies Arnold Cooper, warned that a ban on grey market imports would "place a fence around Europe and have a massive impact on both retailers and consumers". She said retailers that kept pushing on this issue would face legal action from brand owners.

Asda has led campaigns against price maintenance of

books and over-the-counter medicines. Meanwhile Tesco has consistently used the grey market to gain cut-price supplies of brands such as Tommy Hilfiger, Nike, Levi's, Adidas and Calvin Klein, after being denied stock from the manufacturer.

Asda will be selling Eukanuba dog food at prices up to £1.60 lower than those typically charged by specialist pet shops. It has also launched its own gourmet brand called Asda Hero Nutrition Plan, at prices it claims are up to 30 per cent cheaper than rivals. "We are the dog owner's best friend," says

Richard Baker, Asda's deputy trading director.

The pricing and supply policies of branded goods companies are becoming an increasingly contentious issue, which has attracted the attention of the UK competition authorities as well as the consumer affairs minister, Nigel Griffiths.

Retail price maintenance is illegal, the only exemption being over-the-counter medicines and vitamins. However, this has been referred to the Restrictive Practices Court by the Office of Fair Trading and the exemption may be removed.

But though recommended retail prices are against the law, restricting supply is not. Branded goods companies like Levi's, Nike and Tommy Hilfiger refuse to supply supermarket chains, claiming they are unsuitable environments for their products and that the staff lack the specialist knowledge required.

But though the government and consumer groups frequently lambast manufacturers for high prices, it still happens all the time. Superdrug lost a famous battle when perfume manufacturers protested to the Office of Fair Trading that the

chain was selling their fragrances at lower prices. They complained that Superdrug was not a suitable environment in which to sell their products and won.

Superdrug recently ordered Le Coq Sportif to stop fixing the price of its £20 football shirts but the manufacturer was unrepentant: "We broke the law, but commercially, I don't see anything wrong in charging a proper price for a highly sought-after brand name," the said.

When Tesco started stocking cut-price Tommy Hilfiger clothing, the American company hit

back with a lawsuit alleging the goods were counterfeit. Tesco maintains that the goods were genuine.

Tesco makes the point that the branded goods companies are inconsistent in their supply criteria. "You can buy Levi's and Nikes through direct mail catalogues and over the Internet. Where is the specialist advice there? All we want is a level playing field."

Consumer groups wonder where the supermarket groups might turn next. Compact discs would seem an obvious candidate, they say, and a popular choice.

IN BRIEF

US shows signs of slowdown

THE US economy showed signs of slowing in June as retail sales decelerated markedly, growing a bare 0.1 per cent compared with an advance of 1.2 per cent in May, and high street sales actually fell.

Inflation also slowed further in June, with the consumer price index rising by only 0.1 per cent. Inflation ran an annual rate of 1.4 per cent in the first half. Falling energy costs have helped to keep prices down, as have economic and currency weaknesses in Asia. This externally-induced deflation is one factor helping to keep the US economy on its current path of high growth and low inflation.

Economists expect growth to slow from 5.4 per cent in the first quarter to a rate around 2 per cent in the second half of the year.

£30m Asian loan

THE European Investment Bank will lend 45m ecu (£30m) to Indonesia to upgrade and extend the water supply system in east Jakarta, the European Union said. The loan covers around 21 per cent of the cost of the five-year project undertaken by PT Kokar Thamess Airindo in a joint venture with Thames Water.

Colt network

COLT TELECOM said it has completed its initial network and is ready to launch its commercial service in Brussels, Belgium. The initial 16 route kilometres of digital fibre-optic network covers the commercial, financial and administrative areas. Colt said it plans to at least double the size of its Brussels network before the end of this year.

Cendant errors

CENDANT, the US group that has agreed to buy RAC Motoring Services for \$737m (£450m), cut its 1997 earnings by twice as much as expected after revealing that accounting irregularities at its CUC International unit ran deeper than previously disclosed.

Its stock earlier fell 26 per cent to \$14, the lowest since December 1994, after a delayed opening on the New York Stock Exchange. The company said an audit found errors "with an intent to deceive" at CUC that included "fictitious revenues", false coding to inflate revenue and profit and delayed recognition of refunds.

Scottish bond

SCOTTISH LIFE yesterday launched a limited issue high-income bond combining a fixed annual income of 9 per cent net of tax for up to five years, with full return of capital if in the next five years the London and Zürich stock indices rise by less than 40 per cent of the past 10 years' average, and some capital growth if growth is over half the 10-year average. It avoids the new Treasury ban on the sale of multi-index bonds, which guarantee full capital return if a number of indices do not fall.

Insurers 'load charges' on pension top-up schemes

BY ANDREW VERTIY

SOME OF Britain's biggest insurers are loading heavy charges on pension top-up schemes they offer to companies, in some cases reducing investment returns to almost nothing, it emerged yesterday.

A survey of top-up schemes run by employers showed some insurance companies charge up to 9 per cent a year to manage them – enough to wipe out

Watson Wyatt yesterday warned trustees of company pension schemes that they must be vigilant when they pick an insurance company to run a top-up scheme.

Andy Parker, principal in financial services, said: "Our findings on charges and performance show that trustees can take nothing for granted and they have an increasingly

difficult task in choosing the most appropriate scheme provider for their members."

Where savers put aside £25 a month for five years, Norwich Union, Professional Life and Guardian all charge enough to wipe out investment gains of up to 8 per cent a year.

In contrast, top-ups run by Clerical Medical or Equitable Life would only reduce invest-

ment returns by less than 2 per cent. On average, charges took 3.9 points off the interest rate earned.

Norwich Union, which manages over £100m of pension top-up money, said it charged less in an alternative scheme designed for short-term savers.

And charges had less of an impact when savers put away more than £25 a month.

Watson Wyatt's findings will add fuel to the debate on whether there has been widespread mis-selling of the top-up schemes, known as additional voluntary contributions (AVCs).

While some schemes had heavy charges, Watson Wyatt found that most employers' schemes were much cheaper than personal top-up schemes, known as "free-standing" AVCs.

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	YTD	Infl.	Infl.	Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	YTD	Infl.	Infl.	Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	YTD	Infl.	Infl.						
	Cust	Cust			Cust	Cust %		Cust	Cust			Cust	Cust %			Cust	Cust			Cust	Cust					
ABN AMRO Fundstrukt Ltd							Globe Growth	231	245	-150	0.00	5.00		Banx Growth	108	114	-160	2.34	5.00		International Divers.	369	375	-205	2.05	5.25
Admiral Income							Interest Plus	56	56	-97	0.50	5.00		Capital Growth	192	204	-60	0.00	5.00		Int'l Divers Acc	598	621	-203	0.00	5.25
Admiral Income							Japan Growth	115	121	-200	0.00	5.00		FTSE 100 Index	57	57	-112	1.54	5.00		Int'l Equities	327	327	-120	0.00	5.25
Admiral Income							Global Income	55	58	-103	0.17	4.71		FTSE 250 Index	57	57	-112	1.54	5.00		Int'l Bonds	327	327	-120	0.00	5.25
Admiral Income							Global Income	61	65	-103	0.26	5.93		FTSE 100 Index	51	54	-101	0.05	5.00		Int'l Bonds	102	102	-120	0.00	5.25
Admiral Income							Global Income	708	115	-217	0.25	5.51		FTSE 100 Index	51	54	-101	0.05	5.00		Int'l Bonds	102	102	-120	0.00	5.25
ADM Growth Trust Ltd							UK Growth	57	67	-107	1.20	5.00		UK Growth	107	115	-130	1.00	5.00		Int'l Bonds	102	102	-120	0.00	5.25
4 Bottles Bridge Fund, London SE1 2BB							UK Growth	95	95	-113	1.20	5.00		Special Acc	107	115	-130	1.00	5.00		Int'l Bonds	102	102	-120	0.00	5.25
Tel: 0171 770 7978							UK Smaller Cos	154	161	-167	-0.50	5.00		Zero Preference	52	55	-102	0.00	5.00		Int'l Bonds	102	102	-120	0.00	5.25
American General	551	575	-125	-0.00	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
American Standard	551	575	-125	-0.10	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund	77	95	-115	0.55	5.00		Charity Fund	77	95	-115	0.55	5.00		Charity Fund	77	95	-115	0.55	5.00
Asia Pacific	575	57	-118	1.14	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund	88	89	0.50	0.10	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Balance Energy	150	150	0.00	1.76	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Cost	10	10	0.00	0.88	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Cost & S.E.	170	170	0.00	0.39	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Corporate Bond	150	150	0.00	0.36	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
European General	165	165	0.00	0.20	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
European General	195	195	0.00	0.18	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
FTSE 100 Cash Index	195	195	0.00	0.18	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund							Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00		Charity Fund	145	156	-140	1.70	5.00
Global Bonds	125	125	0.00	0.58	5.00	5.00	Charity Fund																			

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E	52	33	0.38	0.08	1.25	Amer Hwy	825	843	1.10	0.26	5.00	
Acc	125	42	3.10	0.42	1.25	Amer Hwy Acc	825	983	1.30	0.26	5.00	
X	41	33	0.81	0.15	1.25	Amer Smaller Cos	195	470	0.70	0.61	5.00	
Acc	113	118	0.85	2.51	4.00	America	850	729	0.50	0.61	5.00	
Acc	51	472	5.60	1.87	1.25	AmericaSmallerCos	185	193	0.70	0.61	5.00	
Acc	190	303	0.80	1.95	1.25	AmericaSmallerCosGen	187	197	0.60	0.61	5.00	
Fund Managers Ltd										Star Chip	241	255
Health Cos	203	219	1.10	0.00	X 3.00	Star Chip Acc	400	401	1.25	1.14	5.00	
Growth	203	219	1.10	0.00	X 3.00	Star Chip Dots	513	514	0.68	3.12	5.00	
CapAcc	212	230	1.20	0.00	X 3.00	Star Chip Dots	78	80	0.68	3.12	5.00	
Health	478	489	5.40	0.00	3.00	Star Chip Fund	276	280	1.25	1.25	5.00	
Health Acc	498	517	5.70	0.00	3.00	Star Chip Fund	276	164	1.25	1.25	5.00	
Health	162	168	0.80	0.37	3.00	Star Chip Fund	120	133	1.25	1.25	5.00	
HealthAcc	84	92	0.78	0.30	3.00	Star Chip Fund	314	332	4.50	1.21	5.00	
Int	30	31	-0.04	7.14	3.00	Star Chip Fund	40	40	-0.07	5.90	X 5.00	
Acc	79	83	0.95	0.04	X 3.00	Star Chip Fund	80	84	1.25	1.25	5.00	
Int Acc	50	56	0.87	7.14	3.00	Star Chip Fund	287	304	3.10	1.25	5.00	
Smart	72	75	0.23	0.00	3.00	Star Chip Fund	433	434	1.00	4.40	5.00	
Health	72	75	0.23	0.00	3.00	Star Chip Fund	642	643	9.10	4.40	5.00	
Health Fund	51	54	0.01	4.45	3.00	Star Chip Fund	1065	1126	0.20	0.21	5.00	
Health	51	54	0.89	0.00	3.00	Star Chip Fund	1370	1456	17.00	0.20	5.00	
1 Acc	93	96	0.91	0.00	3.00	Star Chip Fund	172	173	2.10	2.86	5.00	
Health	18	20	0.13	0.00	X 3.00	Star Chip Fund	200	201	0.20	0.21	5.00	
Health Acc	19	20	0.23	0.00	X 3.00	Star Chip Fund	245	246	0.20	0.21	5.00	
Health Cos	20	21	0.23	0.00	X 3.00	Star Chip Fund	246	247	0.20	0.21	5.00	
Health	118	123	1.00	0.95	3.00	Star Chip Fund	563	681	2.00	4.31	5.00	
Acc	123	129	1.10	0.95	3.00	Star Chip Fund	894	945	3.00	0.89	5.00	
Health	161	161	0.65	6.36	3.00	Star Chip Fund	1760	1800	5.00	0.89	5.00	
Smart	160	167	1.70	0.00	3.00	Star Chip Fund	71	71	-0.01	5.30	X 5.00	
Health	150	150	1.10	1.51	3.00	Star Chip Fund	232	237	0.30	0.61	X 5.00	
Health	124	129	0.70	0.09	3.00	Gold & General	34	36	0.30	0.61	X 5.00	
Health	99	99	0.80	0.95	3.00	Gold & General	42	44	0.60	0.61	X 5.00	
Health	54	58	1.90	3.05	3.00	High Interest	246	255	0.60	1.79	X 5.00	
Cos	55	57	-0.34	1.25	3.00	Income Acc	210	223	2.40	3.79	X 5.00	
Fry	162	172	1.70	0.15	X 5.00	Income Acc	521	523	1.01	1.95	X 5.00	
Health	120	136	0.60	0.00	X 5.00	Income Acc	523	523	1.01	1.95	X 5.00	
Health	99	104	-0.10	7.54	3.00	Income Acc	1024	110	1.00	0.68	X 5.00	
Health	83	87	0.95	0.00	3.00	Int Growth Acc	244	245	2.00	1.63	X 5.00	
Health	268	284	1.10	1.50	3.00	Int Income	145	154	1.30	0.80	X 5.00	
Health	171	181	2.00	0.76	3.00	Japan	215	226	0.30	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	163	172	-0.60	0.00	3.00	Japan	86	92	1.10	0.00	X 5.00	
Fund Managers Ltd										Japan Smaller Cos	521	523
Health	46	50	0.00	6.99	4.00	Japan Smaller Cos	33	34	0.54	1.18	X 5.00	
Health	140	149	0.08	0.55	5.00	Japan Smaller Cos	39	39	0.54	1.18	X 5.00	
Health	339	359	4.91	0.00	5.00	Managed Growth	1518	1596	14.00	2.74	X 5.00	
Health	221	226	2.40	0.00	5.00	Managed Income	63	67	1.25	2.40	X 5.00	
Health	79	84	0.57	0.00	5.00	Pension Exempt	114	120	0.70	2.45	X 5.00	
Health	54	56	0.00	0.00	5.00	Recovery Acc	70	74	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	53	53	0.95	0.00	5.00	Recovery Acc	170	188	0.40	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	71	76	0.70	4.21	5.00	Small Cos Acc	524	525	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	367	377	1.15	1.52	5.00	Small Cos Acc	524	525	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	115	122	1.05	0.00	5.00	Small Cos Acc	524	525	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	121	129	0.75	1.36	5.00	Small Cos Acc	524	525	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	82	87	0.53	0.25	5.00	Small Cos Acc	524	525	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	152	162	-0.20	0.00	5.00	Small Cos Acc	524	525	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	438	456	-1.60	1.83	5.00	Smart	210	223	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	71	77	-0.14	1.85	5.00	Smart	521	523	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	78	82	0.00	1.86	5.00	Smart	523	523	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	62	62	0.34	1.95	5.00	Smart	1024	1025	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	102	108	1.28	2.67	X 5.00	Smart	1605	1650	1.10	1.49	X 5.00	
Health	122	140	-0.75	1.20	5.00	Smart	1920	1936	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Fund Managers Ltd										Smart Investment Management	112	123
Health	51	67	0.96	0.00	5.25	Smart Growth	0.30	0.00	5.00	Smart Growth	112	123
Health	54	55	2.50	0.24	5.25	Smart Growth	109	113	0.50	5.83	X 5.00	
Health	94	95	0.00	0.31	4.47	Smart Growth	226	243	2.40	1.57	X 5.00	
Health	95	97	0.31	0.48	4.25	Smart Growth	250	259	2.00	1.57	X 5.00	
Health	85	95	0.20	0.16	4.25	Smart Growth	181	183	0.70	1.57	X 5.00	
Health	93	105	0.19	0.20	4.25	Smart Portfolio	230	237	3.20	1.21	X 5.00	
Health	42	45	0.47	0.60	4.25	Smart Portfolio	151	159	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	174	184	-0.70	0.00	4.25	Smart Portfolio	174	188	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	5	5	0.07	0.33	4.25	Smart Portfolio	524	525	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	62	67	4.80	4.80	4.25	Smart Portfolio	176	179	0.20	2.24	X 5.00	
Health	664	704	3.60	3.66	5.25	Smart Portfolio	83	86	0.50	0.55	X 5.00	
Health	465	495	1.50	3.98	5.25	Smart Portfolio	175	173	1.40	2.75	X 5.00	
Health	478	506	3.60	3.98	5.25	Smart Portfolio	153	160	0.80	3.60	X 5.00	
Health	373	398	1.70	7.25	5.25	Smart Portfolio	90	110	1.17	1.88	X 5.00	
Health	71	75	0.21	0.00	5.25	Smart Portfolio	110	117	0.80	3.60	X 5.00	
Global BT Managers Ltd										North America	112	123
Health	119	128	0.00	0.00	5.00	North America	521	523	0.40	0.40	X 5.00	
Health	119	128	0.00	0.00	5.00	UK Growth	162	172	1.00	1.58	X 5.00	
Health	119	128	0.00	0.00	5.00	UK Smaller Cos	70	74	0.24	0.24	5.00	
19 Priceline Place										Mayflower	679	723
111										Income	679	777
448412, Basingstoke RG22 8BZ										Global Income	106	115
general-general.co.uk										Leaders	329	350
E	65	65	0.01	6.49	X 5.00	Mayflower	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	
Health	1813	1813	19.00	1.68	5.00	Mayflower	679	723	5.77	2.59	5.00	
Health	95	95	1.60	1.60	5.00	Mayflower	106	115	1.22	5.00	5.00	
Health	152	152	9.00	1.60	5.00	Mayflower	329	350	1.75	5.00	5.00	
Health	247	247	1.60	4.94	X 5.00	Mayflower	462	497	0.40	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	160	160	1.60	0.54	5.00	Mayflower	464	521	0.40	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	149	149	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mayflower	164	174	0.20	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	61	61	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mayflower	165	176	0.50	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	191	191	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mayflower	523	528	0.20	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	98	98	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mayflower	166	176	1.10	2.21	X 5.00	
Health	50	50	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mayflower	167	199	0.20	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	51	51	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mayflower	168	172	0.10	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	149	149	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mayflower	169	171	2.20	0.25	X 5.00	
Health	52	52	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mayflower	170	178	0.20	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	149	149	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mayflower	171	178	0.20	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	113	113	2.10	2.15	X 5.00	Mayflower	172	178	0.20	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	115	115	1.40	2.15	X 5.00	Mayflower	173	178	0.20	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	116	116	1.40	2.15	X 5.00	Mayflower	174	178	0.20	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	212	212	-0.90	0.94	X 5.00	Mayflower	175	178	0.20	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	98	98	1.40	5.81	X 5.00	Mayflower	176	178	0.20	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	138	138	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mayflower	177	178	0.20	0.00	X 5.00	
General										Mercury Fund Mgt Ltd	112	123
Health	119	119	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mercury Fund Mgt Ltd	462	497	0.40	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	119	119	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mercury Fund Mgt Ltd	464	521	0.40	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	119	119	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mercury Fund Mgt Ltd	164	174	0.20	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	119	119	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mercury Fund Mgt Ltd	165	176	0.50	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	119	119	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mercury Fund Mgt Ltd	523	528	0.20	0.00	X 5.00	
Health	119	119	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mercury Fund Mgt Ltd	166	176	1.10	2.21	X 5.00	
Health	119	119	0.00	0.00	5.00	Mercury Fund Mgt Ltd	167	171				

52 week									
High	Low	Stock	Price	Clg	Td	P/E	Code	High	Low
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	0.21-2.15								
934 422 Alford Breweries	504.14	42	144 1004	365	245	Cross Fosters	249	20	15
495 235 Alltech Pl	350	44	54 179 1125	491	275	Foster's	322	35	15 127 1223
54 13 Anthonio Dist	14	10	42 452	51	61	Glenfiddich	167	67	87 111 1469
774 545 Anglo American	785	55	24 242 227	51	61	Johnnie Walker	701	55	62 87 1055
975 446 Anglo-Dutchers	90	80	21 187 279	51	61	Johnnie Walker	593	42	73 58 1055
268 111 Amway Corp	303	15	81 70 1105	51	61	Kingsman	120	37	11 73 1055
RANKS	0.21-2.15								
1328 715 Bally Bet	1141	84	84 175 2121	51	61	Ladbrokes	203	50	27 168 2085
961 477 Ballys	93	40	24 213	51	61	Laurel	17	59	59 113
1091 555 Bellasafe Ldc	887	44	52 165 2223	51	61	Levi's	515	65	24 125 1055
1095 726 Belvoir	1804	70	24 216 2065	51	61	Liberty	248	45	40 212 1055
2246 727 Belvoir	1804	70	24 216 2065	51	61	Logitech	203	50	27 168 2085
806 102 Bell's Of South	705	41.5	17 182 3332	51	61	Lotus	203	50	27 168 2085
926 577 Bellinc	225	22	17 182 3332	51	61	Lyco Supplies	120	37	11 73 1055
2278 132 Belvic (Pty)	1822	62	42 182 3562	51	61	Mackay	203	50	27 168 2085
640 571 Belvoir Dist	504	25	44 212 2065	51	61	Malibu	17	59	59 113
1118 262 Belvoir Dr	714	52.5	24 216 2065	51	61	Manitoba	515	65	24 125 1055
1264 744 Belvoir Dr	1106	32	24 216 2065	51	61	Markay	203	50	27 168 2085
753 440 Belvoir Rock	521	22.0	- 377	51	61	Master	125	17	15 172 2025
793 221 Belvoir Rock	521	22.0	- 377	51	61	Matex	125	17	15 172 2025
1221 561 Belvoir Rock	1807	52.5	24 216 2065	51	61	Maxx	120	37	11 73 1055
1094 485 Belvoir	874	20.8	34 117 1441	51	61	McDonald's	203	50	27 168 2085
473 311 Benetton	473	42.5	24 212 3377	51	61	Medifast	103	15	81 70 1105
308 229 Benetton	347	16.5	24 212 3377	51	61	Meijer	120	37	11 73 1055
BREWERS PUBS & REST 0.01-1.00									
1179 732 Bets	1000	15	35 344 1006	51	61	Menier	203	50	27 168 2085
516 475 Bells Gp	111	00	1823	51	61	Mercury	203	50	27 168 2085
255 441 Benthall	100	00	1823	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
168 122 Bentham	185	50	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
163 133 Bentham Ent	120	20	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
162 119 Bentham Ent	120	20	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
249 268 Bentham Ent	120	20	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
385 223 Bentham Ent	120	20	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
503 412 Bentham Ent	553	0.0	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
510 617 Bentham Ent	295	0.0	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
385 172 Bentham Ent	172	49	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
504 492 Bentham Ent	172	49	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
275 182 Bentham Ent	503	0.0	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
76 561 Bentham Ent	503	0.0	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
1095 561 Bentham Ent	503	0.0	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
261 500 Bentham Ent	503	0.0	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
518 493 Bentham Ent	503	0.0	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	120	37	11 73 1055
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS 0.2-2.36									
1179 520 Bets	1000	15	35 344 1006	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
516 493 Bentham	111	00	1823	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
255 441 Bentham	100	00	1823	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
168 122 Bentham	185	50	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
163 133 Bentham Ent	120	20	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
162 119 Bentham Ent	120	20	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
249 268 Bentham Ent	120	20	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
385 223 Bentham Ent	120	20	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
503 412 Bentham Ent	553	0.0	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
510 617 Bentham Ent	295	0.0	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
385 172 Bentham Ent	172	49	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
504 492 Bentham Ent	172	49	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
275 182 Bentham Ent	503	0.0	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
76 561 Bentham Ent	503	0.0	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
1095 561 Bentham Ent	503	0.0	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
261 500 Bentham Ent	503	0.0	24 212 3377	51	61	Metaphor	203	50	27 168 2085
ELECTRONICS	0.01-1.00								
365 475 Bets	37	11.7	37 11.7	51	61	Acer	203	50	27 168 2085
501 493 Bets	205	0.5	21 71 180	51	61	Acer	203	50	27 168 2085
255 441 Bets	205	0.5	21 71 180	51	61	Acer	203	50	27 168 2085
168 122 Bets	180	0.0	18 18 180	51	61	Acer	203	50	27 168 2085
163 133 Bets	180	0.0	18 18 180	51	61	Acer	203	50	27 168 2085
162 119 Bets	180	0.0	18 18 180	51	61	Acer	203	50	27 168 2085
249 268 Bets	180	0.0	18 18 180	51	61	Acer	203	50	27 168 2085
385 223 Bets	180	0.0	18 18 180	51	61	Acer	203	50	27 168 2085
503 412 Bets	180	0.0	18 18 180	51	61	Acer	203	50	27 168 2085
510 617 Bets	180	0.0	18 18 180	51	61	Acer	203	50	27 168 2085
385 172 Bets	180	0.0	18 18 180	51	61	Acer	203	50	27 168 2085
504 492 Bets	180	0.0	18 18 180	51	61	Acer	203	50	27 168 2085
275 182 Bets	180	0.0	18 18 180	51</td					

Market gorges on a blue-chip feast

BLUE CHIPS were in rampant form, with Foothills surging 142 points to 6,100.2, just 5.6 below the record hit in April.

It was, for the stock market, a gluttonous good news day. Weak inflation figures, together with more evidence that retail sales are under pressure, fuelled hopes that interest rates have peaked. New York, during London hours, was in irresistible form and the improved outlook for Japan and Russia were other influences.

A weaker dollar by sterling, giving a push to hard-pressed currency sensitive groups, also contributed to the euphoria.

So did a sudden appreciation that the banks are preparing for a bumper profits season, a rather mild report from the water industry regulator, and even an extension to a monopoly probe into mobile phone charges. The Foothills surge, the best since stories of Britain joining EMU started circulating last autumn, added £28.6bn to share values. Datastream calculated.

But some traders remained cautious. Trading was not particularly heavy and conditions were decidedly

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

squeezed. Polarisation was again the name of the game. Within Foothills, it was the financials with a little help from telecoms which spurred the advance. Away from the blue chips there was little excitement.

The mid cap index managed a solid 0.1 gain to 5,568.1. And the small cap measurement achieved a mere 0.2 gain to 2,576.8.

Legal & General, the insurer, led the Foothills charge with a 50p gain to 747p but banks, a little subdued lately, were prominent, scoring a near 5 per cent advance. Lloyds TSB jumped 52p to 914p; Bank of

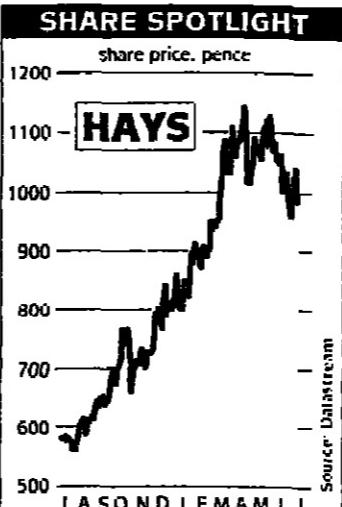
Scotland 41.5p to 732.5p and Abbey National 64p to 1,141p. Alliance & Leicester rose a further 44.5p to 887p. More talk of industry consolidation also provided support.

Fund manager Perpetual was 100p higher at 1,137.5p with some suggesting the bewhiskered bid candidate was at last near to take-over action - Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs were mentioned as the most likely predators.

GKN, reflecting sterling and Henderson Crosthwaite's buy advice, put up 52p to 892p, and Vodafone, with a 42.5p gain to 840p, had the best dialling tone.

British Energy flared 35.5p to 557p. Morgan Stanley put out a 76p target and suggested the recent weakness - the shares have fallen from 606p - provided a strong buying opportunity.

Hays, the business support group, was hit by a CSFB sell signal, tumbling 28p to 985p. Reuters' information group, fell 12p to 661.5p after house broker ABN Amro cut its profits forecast from £513m to £505m. Cadbury Schweppes, off 14p to 948p, was ruffled by a talk of a new soft drink from PepsiCo.



The Fisher experience hit other food shares such as Geest, starting investment presentations, off 31p to 540p. Garden centres, like Country Gardens, felt the Flowers backlash. With Charterhouse Tilney cutting its profits forecast from £5.7m to £5.3m CG fell 4.5p to 190p.

Lorien, a technology group, slumped 66p to 712.5p following half-year profits in line with expectations. Another profits warning from Car Group, a second-hand dealer, reversed the shares 7.5p to 545p.

Cotl Telecom's happy run continued with a 97.5p gain to 3,010p; investment meetings are due tomorrow.

Coca-Cola Beverages, the subject of some confusing trading on its debut, fizzed a further 12p to 181p; Ryanair, making its official London debut, rose 20.5p to 524p. The company floated in Dublin in May last year; it has an ADR listing on Nasdaq. The shares were traded on a grey market in London on Friday at 483p. Building materials group CRH lost 5p to 878p after SBC Warburg put a 878p target on the Irish building materials group.

Airflow Streamlines, the engi-

neer, fell 5p to 165p after reporting that bid talks had ended. Premier Farnell, the electrical distributor, lost 15p to 266p after a 4.5-million line was placed at 252p with institutional investors.

Telewest Communications made further headway, hardening 4.5p to 195.5p. The group's rights issue shares, to be sold at 92.5p, must be the biggest bargain in the market. The cash is needed as part of the ammunition for the take-over of General Cable.

Baldwin Industrial Services, the crane-hire group, made a better-than-expected debut, stretching to 125p against a 112p placing.

Ahead of its shareholders' meeting today at which approval is expected to sell its retail dry cleaning and photo processing chains, Sketchley fell 3p to 1,104p. Iomica, the stricken telephone group, lost a further 10.5p to 36.5p. There had been hopes of a link with - perhaps even a bid from - a stronger group but the market suspects it has walked away.

SEAO VOLUME: 934.4 million
SEAO TRADES: 78,783
GILTS INDEX: 105.25 +0.02

CCI HOLDINGS jumped 12.5p to 125p; last year the shares of the clay-pigeon maker hit 190p. But it seems the company is not much longer for the rarefied world of the clay-pigeon shooter.

It is selling the business to three of its directors and intends to become a stock market shell, seeking acquisitions. Simon Beart will become the £75,000-a-year chairman of CCI; he is the former finance director of Britton, the packaging and paper group.

PARALLEL PICTURES, on its way to AIM, is planning to raise up to £1.25m by offering shares at 32p. It is a film maker, and currently has one cinema film in pre-production.

THE LATE night bars chain business, Po Na Na, gained 1p to close at 110.5p on OTEX. Two institutions, one of them 3i, have taken stakes.

Goode Durrant is caught in car gloom

SHARES IN Goode Durrant, the vehicle hire company, have been stuck in reverse gear ever since Car Group and Arriva, the transport groups, warned of falling used car prices in June - a warning that Car Group repeated yesterday.

Over the past month, the stock has shed 7 per cent as the City turned gloomy on the whole sector. Goode Durrant's poor run was extended yesterday when the market took a set of results slightly below expectations - with profits rising almost 20 per cent to £29.5m - to push the shares down 25p to 472.5p.

The fall looks overdone and stems mainly from the market's habit of tarring a number of different companies with the same brush. The bulk of Goode Durrant's fleet is in light commercial vehicles, which have not been hit by falling prices. Cars account for only 10 per cent of the total and, unlike Arriva and First Group's fleet, are not sold when they are "nearly new" but only after they have clocked up more than 50,000 miles, putting them in a segment of the used-car market which has not been touched by the downturn in prices.

Investors should concentrate on Goode Durrant's core business, hiring out commercial vehicles to small and medium-sized firms, which looks promising. Over the coming years, the company will benefit from a positive double whammy as overcapacity forces manufacturers to moderate price increases and hire rates continue to grow.

The hire business would also gain from an economic downturn as more businesses choose to hire rather than buy their vans. The main threat to Goode Durrant's earnings comes from depreciation charges, which are set to wipe out around £1.5m from 1999 profits, following the company's decision to increase its depreciation level.

But on a downwardly revised 1999 profit forecast of around £32m the shares, on a multiple of 13, are still offering good value. Buy.

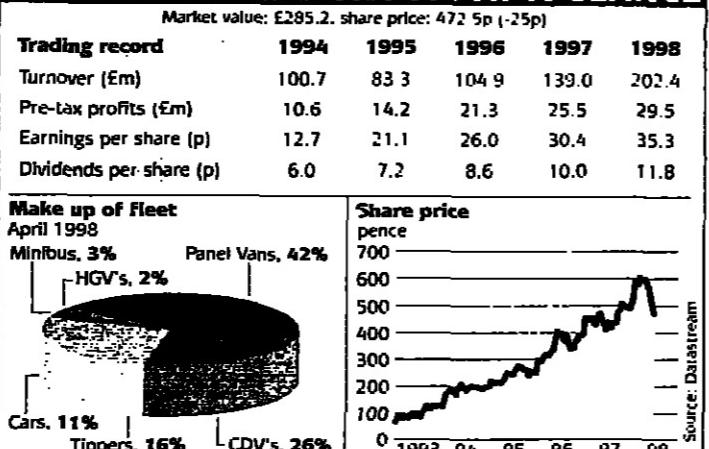
Lorien held back by one-off costs

THE DOWNSIDE of being viewed as a computer stock by investors is that you have to produce the growth to match. Lorien didn't and was duly punished. The consultancy and re-

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

GOODE DURRANT GROUP: AT A GLANCE



	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Trading record					
Turnover (£m)	100.7	83.3	104.9	139.0	202.4
Pre-tax profits (£m)	10.6	14.2	21.3	25.5	29.5
Earnings per share (p)	12.7	21.1	26.0	30.4	35.3
Dividends per share (p)	6.0	7.2	8.6	10.0	11.8
Make up of fleet					
April 1998					
Minibus, 3%					
Panel Vans, 42%					
HGVs, 2%					
Cars, 11%					
CDVs, 26%					
Tippers, 16%					

Company group's share price had risen from 300p in the autumn to almost 380p earlier this year. But yesterday the shares lost 8 per cent of their value, falling 66p to 712.5p, as it reported pedestrian interim results.

Hacking through the figures is tricky, because they are littered with exceptional charges. The underlying picture is that pre-tax profits rose by 13 per cent to £2.50m. But Lorien says profits were depressed by a raft of one-off costs. It reckons setting up a new division to implement enterprise resource-planning software in small businesses, bringing all its divisions together under the Lorien brand and setting up a new pension scheme to help it hang on to staff reduced profits by £1m. Add that back and, hey presto, profits in fact rose by 55 per cent.

The problem is that Lorien's one-off costs have a habit of recurring. It is even argued that the £720,000 it charged for setting up a long-term share incentive plan is a normal running cost for a business in this sector.

Analysts have not changed full-year profit forecasts of £2.6m, suggesting Lorien will make up for the first-half shortfall in the next six months. But the company still has to prove that its idea of selling complete packages of consultancy, IT and staffing services can be turned into reality.

Operating margins, currently a miserably 3 per cent, also need to improve. After yesterday's fall the shares trade on a forward multiple of 16. That is poor for a company of this calibre, but, given the current uncertainties in the market, just about fair. Hold.

Compaq fears knock Trifast

SMALL COMPANY stocks are taking a pounding so it takes only a bit of extra bad news to damage the high achievers. Trifast, a real growth stock which manufactures and distributes fasteners in the electrical and electronics sector, has trailed the market by 13 per cent this year.

The slump is largely down to fears about the health of the computer giant Compaq, one of Trifast's big customers. The concern is probably overdone. It is margins, rather than volumes, which are being squeezed at Compaq.

Yesterday Trifast was upbeat. Malcolm Diamond, chief executive, unveiled another solid set of results with pre-tax profits up 23 per cent at £8.4m on the back of a 30 per cent surge in sales to £78.8m. This pattern of continued profit growth has been continuous since the company was formed in 1973 and maintained through 1994 when it was floated at 200p. Yesterday, Trifast shares rose 10p to 602.5p.

The group is still in expansion mode. Last year it acquired three businesses in the UK, Malaysia and Holland.

Broker CSFB has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £9.3m for 1998, putting the shares on a forward multiple of 16. That is poor for a company of this calibre, but, given the current uncertainties in the market, just about fair. Hold.

WILLIAM WARD is preparing to unveil his eight refurbished yachts next Monday for the "Clipper '98 Round the World Yacht Race" at St

IN BRIEF

Higher rates erode profits at Gardiner

PROFITS AT Gardiner Group fell 6.7 per cent to £2.23m in the six months to the end of April, reflecting a rise in interest charges on the cost of acquisitions, although sales rose 3 per cent to £49.7m.

"In the UK sales of CCTV, access control and fire products continue to grow, although the intruder market remains difficult," chairman Richard Clemons said. The market in Europe continues to grow.

Jacques Vert losses

LOSSES AT ladies' fashion retailer Jacques Vert halved to £4.4m in the year to 3 May, and sales fell by a third after the disposal of the Graze Collection and the closure of the wholesale business. But like-for-like sales were up 11 per cent in the first seven weeks of the current year, and the group was operating at a small profit. Two new stores and seven concessions are planned in the next 12 months.

Heel gets toe-caps

DINKIE HEEL has agreed to buy the steel toe-cap making business of Tomkins' subsidiary, Firth Cleveland Engineering, for £1.5m.

The acquisition, which will make Dinkie Heel the third-largest steel toe-cap supplier in the world, is conditional on the company's application for admission to the Alternative Investment Market being approved. The shares, currently listed on the Official List, are expected to begin trading on AIM from 27 July.

Wintrust up 14%

PROFITS AT the banking and property management group, Wintrust, were up 14 per cent to £3.9m in the year to the end of March, and earnings per share rose 20 per cent, double the previous year. There are no signs of a slowdown in the residential property market, the chairman Richard Szapiro claimed.

Stationery growth

INTERNATIONAL GREETINGS reported a 13 per cent rise in profits to £6.82m in the year to the end of March on sales of £53.5m. The company has bought Copywrite, a children's stationery business, from the receiver for £1m and signed licence agreements with Disney, Mattel and Hasbro to help develop the business, which had annual revenues of £23m.

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A PRESS release has plopped on to my desk from FTSE International, welcoming the news of the link between the London Stock Exchange and its German equivalent.

Unfortunately Mark Makepeace, managing director of FTSE International, rather spoils the effect with the following comment: "We are exited [sic] by this announcement from the London Stock Exchange and the Deutsche Börse ..."

Go before they've even arrived. At least the French will be happy.

OUT OF THE ashes of the old Hamptons merchant bank a new advisory boutique has arisen. Three former directors of the recently dissolved bank have launched RSP Corporate Finance, based just off London's Piccadilly, to provide independent advice to shipping oil and finance companies.

Elvind Rabben, John Cook and Richard Trythall, all former directors of Hamptons' shipping division, have put their money behind the venture, along with Clare E Hamptons, a former corporate finance bid at Hamptons. Clare is the daughter of Lord Hamptons, the former chairman of the merchant bank - and wife of Elvind Rabben.

The remaining shareholder and director is Peter Donald, previously a director of equity capital markets at NatWest Securities, the securities arm of National Westminster Bank which itself was recently sold off to Bankers Trust.

Mr Rabben says: "I've known Peter for many years - mainly from the opposite side of the table. He's strong on the new issues side, the larger shipping floatations."

As it became apparent that Société Générale, the French bank which bought the remaining bits of Hamptons, was going to concentrate on the lending side of things, Mr Rabben and colleagues decided a new boutique was the answer. They never planned to take anyone else on, but Peter and three former members of Hamptons' shipping division, Erik Mathiesen, Andrew Fogle and Celia Loucaides, came knocking at the door. "Our recruiting policy is entirely opportunistic," admits Mr Rabben. "But we do want to grow this thing".

WILLIAM WARD is preparing to unveil his eight refurbished yachts next Monday for the "Clipper '98 Round the World Yacht Race" at St

SPORT

The 127th Open: Golf's biggest crowdpuller warns Westwood as the two favourites prepare for a major confrontation

Woods is taming the tiger within

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON
at Royal Birkdale

WHEN TIGER Woods came before us yesterday he was dressed predominantly in blue and covered in the ticks of his Nike sponsors. He looked like Einstein's homework.

The plus marks for being the young comet of golf no longer belong to the American, however. That distinction lies with Lee Westwood, who has won seven times in the last nine months and banked more prize-money than any player on the regular tour. He's hot.

The man from Worksop will do well to consider the Woods' model, though. When Tiger arrived at Troon 12 months ago he was fresh from an extravagant Masters victory. Club selection seemed unimportant. The more pressing choice appeared to be what vintage he would be pouring into the claret jug on Sunday evening. Then the script deviated.

A round of 64 was surrounded by dirtier scores and the wunderkind became submerged in the pack as he tied for 24th. Woods has won this year but in comparison to the playing monster of his early professional career he has become devalued. In majors, especially,

Tiger has been performing more like Eeyore. Or even Pooh.

This was the man trained in the art of mental golf by his father Earl, a former Green Beret. His faraway behaviour, though, at its worst, is more dumkopf than Schwarzkopf. Clubs are thrown and expletives chase after them.

Woods insists he has benefited from the Troon experience. He has not cut out the less admirable elements of his game. He has seemed on the verge of doing it himself. Now, Woods

was a lot of pressure on me to play well, but I think that's when you live and learn and I learned from lessons last year," he said. "Like forgetting the media. I don't really read articles any more or what's on television. I figured since I've already gone through the experience I don't need another person's perspective on what I've just gone through."

"I shut myself away from that because otherwise you can get hypercritical of yourself. I know a lot of people in the media like to take shots at you for various things, nit-picking things. I am human and you're going to take offence to that because sometimes you don't think you did anything wrong."

The Woods playing technique has also undergone a slight modification and the new model should help him creep under the great gusts that are swirling around Southport this week. "I've changed my preparation a little bit, worked on my swing, tried to get the plane better," he said. "I think overall my game is better. I'm fighting the ball better than I was at this time last year."

"I'm hitting the ball lower than I ever have in my entire life. That's one of the reasons why I've been so consistent this year,

why I haven't had the really high rounds. This year my bad shots are not that bad. I am not hitting it two fairways over and stuff like that."

His tendency to veer off the main thoroughfare has had a dramatic effect on the shoe bills for the four security personnel who are constantly assigned to Woods following death threats.

It has appeared in the past that it would not take an assassin to wipe the man out. He has seemed on the verge of doing it himself. Now, Woods

says, he is more at peace with himself.

"Sometimes you have got to gut it out when you're playing bad," he says. "With that in mind I have become less tough on myself because you're going to go through some dry spells."

Woods and Westwood are the joint favourites to win this week at 11-1. They are also bonded by mutual admiration. "He has had a great run ever since the end of last year," the American says of the recent Loch Lomond victor. "He has

played extremely well and shot some really low scores, which is impressive, and been able to do it consistently. That is when you know the guy is playing really well."

Westwood, at 25, is the brave new face of European golf. He could rarely have had a more courageous moment than yesterday's, though, when he appeared inside a jumper of quite extraordinary pastels. After this, it was easy to believe his assertion that he will not get embarrassed in front of a crowd on Sunday.

"I'm not afraid to win and if I do get

the opportunity I hope to take it," he said. "I won't be nervous coming down the stretch if I'm leading. I'm not afraid of winning and I'm not afraid of losing. If I don't win the Open this year it won't be the end of the world to me. I would dearly love to win, but it's not life or death. It's only a game."

With his perma-smile and crumpled baseball cap, Westwood has the look of an eager forecourt attendant. He is looking forward to the customers turning out to support him this week. "It's good to have people

walking round with you, the enthusiasm is there with the crowd," he said. "It's a good atmosphere and if you hit it off line they will have trampled the rough down."

Westwood may have played most of his golf in his home county of Nottinghamshire, in the very heart of England, but it is competition on Britain's fringes that most takes him.

"Links golf has always been my preferred golf," he said. "It's more of a challenge than when 23-under wins. I like to play tournaments where you need two good shots to the green to

make par, and three or four-under wins. It's something that is either suited to your game or not. I'm trying to go into it positively thinking that I can play links golf."

Unlike Woods, Lee Westwood devours all the material written about him. "Occasionally I see articles I don't like, but I remember who writes them," he said. "I've got a little list at home." It is this factor which leads many writers to insist that Westwood is the most charming, delightful and talented golfer and man in the whole of Europe.



Westwood concentrates on a delicate chip shot

Tiger Woods puts in some practice playing out of the rough at Royal Birkdale yesterday as he attempts to improve his below-par season

David Ashdown



Chippers off the old block

GREG NORMAN stood on a mound near the 17th green yesterday and called for a ruling. Norman didn't like the way the ball was lying, not one little bit. "I'm there a rule about burrowing animals," the Great White Shark shouted to the crowd of about 50 spectators. "Is there any member here who can help?"

Val Moran, a vision in purple waterproofs, stepped boldly forward, inspected the ball and its habitat and told Greg what he wanted to hear: a free drop was in order.

This may have been the Junior Open, but Norman was leaving nothing to chance. His son, Gregory, needed all the breaks he could get. Presumably Greg named his son Gregory to avoid any confusion. At Formby Golf Club it was not difficult to differentiate between the two.

For starters Gregory is not much taller than a burrowing animal. The shortest competitor in the Junior Open, Gregory was dwarfed by his graphite-shafted driver. Nevertheless, at the age of 12 he looked the part, even if he did have the devil of a job getting his ball out of the rough.

Wearing a cap with his father's trademark shark emblem on the front, he found Formby different from any course he had ever played. Especially in a freezing gaze.

Gregory, who has a handicap of 14, shot 103 in the second and final round which was two strokes better than his first round. "He's a lot like his father," his teaching professional in Florida said. "He plays very

intensely, deliberately and is a driven competitor."

Little Gregory was in good company yesterday. He was playing with his friend Michael Watson, the son of Tom and Louise Kenney the Fife junior champion. Michael, aged 15 and with a handicap of "five or six," drives the ball miles but he got off to a bad start in the second round before rallying. "I am happy," he said. "I played the back nine as I wanted to."

"Great shot out of there!" Tom would occasionally yell as his son blasted out of the heather. "Usually," Michael said, "I don't enjoy my dad watching me play. It puts more pressure on me, although that's never his intention. It's hard

having a famous father. You constantly hear people saying that Tom Watson's son. It's hard on Gregory too."

Watson junior shot 77 after a 96 and his aggregate of 173 was matched by Louise, also aged 15 and with a handicap of four. Louise, from Dunfermline, scored 87, 86. Never mind the pressure on Gregory and Michael, Louise had to go round Formby in the close attendance of two men who between them have won seven Open championships.

"It was a bit daunting," Louise said, "but it was also very enjoyable and a unique experience. Greg gave me some putting tips and that is something I'll never forget."

It was also a red-letter day for David Ingalls, who won the event with an extraordinary round of 71 for an aggregate of 148. It is not every day that you beat an Open field including Norman and Watson.

According to Bernard Gallacher, the former European Ryder Cup captain, Ingalls, a 16-year-old who plays at Glencairn, near Edinburgh, off a handicap of plus one, has a tremendous future in the game.

While the Watson family returns to Birkdale to prepare for the Open, the Normans took a private jet back to Florida via Ireland where Greg, who is out of action until September following a shoulder operation, is designing golf courses.

Michael said: "It's a lot harder than it seems on TV." He once beat his father over nine holes in Hawaii and they have been warming up for Birkdale by playing in Ballybunion.

Given the conditions, Watson believes the winner on Sunday will be over par for the chal-



Gregory Norman (left) chats with Michael Watson during the Junior Open. Allsport

pionship. "The wind can be your friend or your enemy," he said, "but it's going to be extremely difficult. I can't wait to put it to the test one more time." It was at Birkdale that Watson won the last of his five Opens – indeed the last of his eight majors – in 1983.

However, for the most part yesterday Watson's mind was on the form of his son. "Golf is not a perfect game and it was never meant to be," Tom said, "but Michael had a nicely balanced round with a very strong finish. It will be a happy meal tonight."

TEE-OFF TIMES FOR TOMORROW AND FRIDAY AT ROYAL BIRKDALE

0715 and 1145: J. Guepy (Fra), F. Jacobson (Swe), G. Evans (USA)	1105 and 1545: A. Magee (USA), C. Montgomery, B. Crundwell (USA), S. Dunlap (USA), K. Tomori (Japan), S. Torrance, S. Appleby (Aus), S. Estes (USA), P. Sjoland (Swe), S. Elkington (Aus), S. Ballsteros (Spa), M. Watson (USA)	1105 and 1545: G. Hutcheson, S. Young (GBR), C. Spring (GBR), C. Strange (GBR), K. Hwang (Kor), B. Way (USA), F. Horwitz, S. Alter (NZL), L. Westwood, T. Dodds (USA), J. Jones (GBR), P. Lawrie (GBR), F. Henge (Swe), C. Suneson (Swe), A. Clapp (GBR), H. Clark (GBR), N. Price (GBR), T. Lewis (Fra), D. Ross (USA), G. Brand Jr., B. May (USA), R. Davis (USA), T. Johnstone (GBR), D. Hargrave (GBR), J. Furyk (USA), B. Mayfair (USA), B. Glasson (USA), D. Howell (USA), M. Calvachich (USA), J. Haeggman (Swe), K. Fukuhara (Japan), S. Chik (USA), J. Huston (USA), T. Tamada (Japan), S. Estes (USA), P. Baker (USA), S. Ames (Ind.), D. Frost (S.Africa), S. Henderson (Swe), T. Suzuki (Japan)	1105 and 1545: G. Hutcheson, S. Young (GBR), C. Spring (GBR), C. Strange (GBR), K. Hwang (Kor), B. Way (USA), F. Horwitz, S. Alter (NZL), L. Westwood, T. Dodds (USA), J. Jones (GBR), P. Lawrie (GBR), F. Henge (Swe), C. Suneson (Swe), A. Clapp (GBR), H. Clark (GBR), N. Price (GBR), T. Lewis (Fra), D. Ross (USA), G. Brand Jr., B. May (USA), R. Davis (USA), T. Johnstone (GBR), D. Hargrave (GBR), J. Furyk (USA), B. Mayfair (USA), B. Glasson (USA), D. Howell (USA), M. Calvachich (USA), J. Haeggman (Swe), K. Fukuhara (Japan), S. Chik (USA), J. Huston (USA), T. Tamada (Japan), S. Estes (USA), P. Baker (USA), S. Ames (Ind.), D. Frost (S.Africa), S. Henderson (Swe), T. Suzuki (Japan)
0905 and 1345: M. A. Jimenez (Spa), 0915 and 1345: M. Jimenez (Spa), 0925 and 1405: B. Facon (USA), 0945 and 1415: J. P. Hayes (USA), 0955 and 1425: T. Woods (USA), 1015 and 1435: B. Alvaro (Spa), 1025 and 1445: M. Brooks (USA), 1045 and 1455: J. Adinger, S. Garcia (Spa), 1055 and 1505: P. Johnson (USA), 1055 and 1515: S. Jones (USA), P. O'Malley (Aus), 1055 and 1515: L. Mize (USA), P. McGarrity (GBR), 1055 and 1515: D. Love III (USA), I. Garrido (Spa), V. Singh (P.R.O.)	1105 and 1545: G. Hutcheson, S. Young (GBR), C. Spring (GBR), C. Strange (GBR), K. Hwang (Kor), B. Way (USA), F. Horwitz, S. Alter (NZL), L. Westwood, T. Dodds (USA), J. Jones (GBR), P. Lawrie (GBR), F. Henge (Swe), C. Suneson (Swe), A. Clapp (GBR), H. Clark (GBR), N. Price (GBR), T. Lewis (Fra), D. Ross (USA), G. Brand Jr., B. May (USA), R. Davis (USA), T. Johnstone (GBR), D. Hargrave (GBR), J. Furyk (USA), B. Mayfair (USA), B. Glasson (USA), D. Howell (USA), M. Calvachich (USA), J. Haeggman (Swe), K. Fukuhara (Japan), S. Chik (USA), J. Huston (USA), T. Tamada (Japan), S. Estes (USA), P. Baker (USA), S. Ames (Ind.), D. Frost (S.Africa), S. Henderson (Swe), T. Suzuki (Japan)	1105 and 1545: G. Hutcheson, S. Young (GBR), C. Spring (GBR), C. Strange (GBR), K. Hwang (Kor), B. Way (USA), F. Horwitz, S. Alter (NZL), L. Westwood, T. Dodds (USA), J. Jones (GBR), P. Lawrie (GBR), F. Henge (Swe), C. Suneson (Swe), A. Clapp (GBR), H. Clark (GBR), N. Price (GBR), T. Lewis (Fra), D. Ross (USA), G. Brand Jr., B. May (USA), R. Davis (USA), T. Johnstone (GBR), D. Hargrave (GBR), J. Furyk (USA), B. Mayfair (USA), B. Glasson (USA), D. Howell (USA), M. Calvachich (USA), J. Haeggman (Swe), K. Fukuhara (Japan), S. Chik (USA), J. Huston (USA), T. Tamada (Japan), S. Estes (USA), P. Baker (USA), S. Ames (Ind.), D. Frost (S.Africa), S. Henderson (Swe), T. Suzuki (Japan)	1105 and 1545: G. Hutcheson, S. Young (GBR), C. Spring (GBR), C. Strange (GBR), K. Hwang (Kor), B. Way (USA), F. Horwitz, S. Alter (NZL), L. Westwood, T. Dodds (USA), J. Jones (GBR), P. Lawrie (GBR), F. Henge (Swe), C. Suneson (Swe), A. Clapp (GBR), H. Clark (GBR), N. Price (GBR), T. Lewis (Fra), D. Ross (USA), G. Brand Jr., B. May (USA), R. Davis (USA), T. Johnstone (GBR), D. Hargrave (GBR), J. Furyk (USA), B. Mayfair (USA), B. Glasson (USA), D. Howell (USA), M. Calvachich (USA), J. Haeggman (Swe), K. Fukuhara (Japan), S. Chik (USA), J. Huston (USA), T. Tamada (Japan), S. Estes (USA), P. Baker (USA), S. Ames (Ind.), D. Frost (S.Africa), S. Henderson (Swe), T. Suzuki (Japan)
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O'Meara makes up for lost time

GOLF

BY ANDY FARRELL
at Royal Birkdale

MARK O'MEARA's first appearance at Royal Birkdale came 11 years ago. The event was the Lawrence Bailey International and O'Meara won in spectacular fashion. He holed two full seven-iron shots on the back nine, at the 11th and the 16th. "It was quite exciting," the Masters champion said. "Something I'll always remember."

So will Carl Mason, the vet-

eran English professional who had to wait another seven years for his first victory. O'Meara found out what it was like to be in Mason's shoes when Birkdale staged the Open in 1991. The American, who tied for third place with Fred Couples, played with Ian Baker-Finch in the final round.

"It was just Ian's day," O'Meara said. "He played a tremendous round of golf, about as good a nine holes as I've ever seen played on the front side." The Australian went to the turn in 29 that sunny Sunday to win his only

major. Since then the decline has been well documented. Baker-Finch is back at Birkdale, but only as a television commentator.

"Before Ian went back to Australia, when he was still living in Orlando and going through some of his trials and tribulations, we practised a lot together," O'Meara recalled. "I tried to encourage him a lot, for we all know what kind of person he is. He is a super gentleman and was a great asset for the game. To see what Ian had to struggle through was difficult for everyone."

"Golf is such a humbling game, but that's what makes it so special. You are out there on your own and you don't have a team to rely on. When you are playing well and winning, then for all the top guys. When you are not playing well, people tend not to notice. Then, when you are really struggling, everybody seems to notice."

"Right now in the US, Chip Beck is struggling with his game and there have been others who were at the top of the game for a long time who then struggled. As these young players come through who are fiery

and competitive there is more of an intimidation factor. It is so difficult to keep trying to improve your game."

O'Meara knows at first hand after practising with Tiger Woods for the past two years. The 41-year-old turned from money machine to major winner trying to keep up with the prodigy. O'Meara was surprised anew on Monday when Woods almost drove the green at the 457-yard eighth hole.

"I don't see anything too wrong with Tiger's game," O'Meara said of his predecessor as Masters champion's

quiet spell in recent majors. "What I do see is that the competition level is very keen and there are a lot of other fine players besides Tiger Woods. I think he understands that."

"I think the true sign of a fine player is that he can dig deep and figure out what's going wrong when he's not playing well. We will see what happens this week but I think the course will suit him. I think any course suits him. There is no question that he has an advantage when it comes to power, but he can play all the shots."

As for O'Meara, winning at

Augusta completed an otherwise lucrative but unfulfilled career. "I will always be thankful for what took place on that Sunday there," he said. "To be able to win a major was a dream come true."

"I've been playing some of my best golf for the last three years but I'm 41 and you realise you can't always play perfect golf. We can't always have fun, but realising it is not a life-and-death situation frees yourself a bit and you tend to play a little better."

■ Se Ri Pak, the rapidly emerging 20-year-old South Korean on



The LPGA tour will play at the Women's British Open at Royal Lytham and St Anne's, which starts on 13 August.

Briton saved by his helmet

CHRIS BOARDMAN said yesterday that he would have suffered serious injury had he not been wearing a helmet when he crashed out of the Tour.

The 1992 Olympic gold medallist ended up in Cork's University Hospital with a broken wrist and facial injuries after a collision with a teammate sent him sliding into a roadside stone wall during Monday's second stage.

The British rider, who flew home to the Wirral last night, said he would have "no objection" if helmets were to be made compulsory on the Tour.

"If I was unconscious with a helmet, then I don't like to think what would have happened if I had not been wearing one," Boardman said.

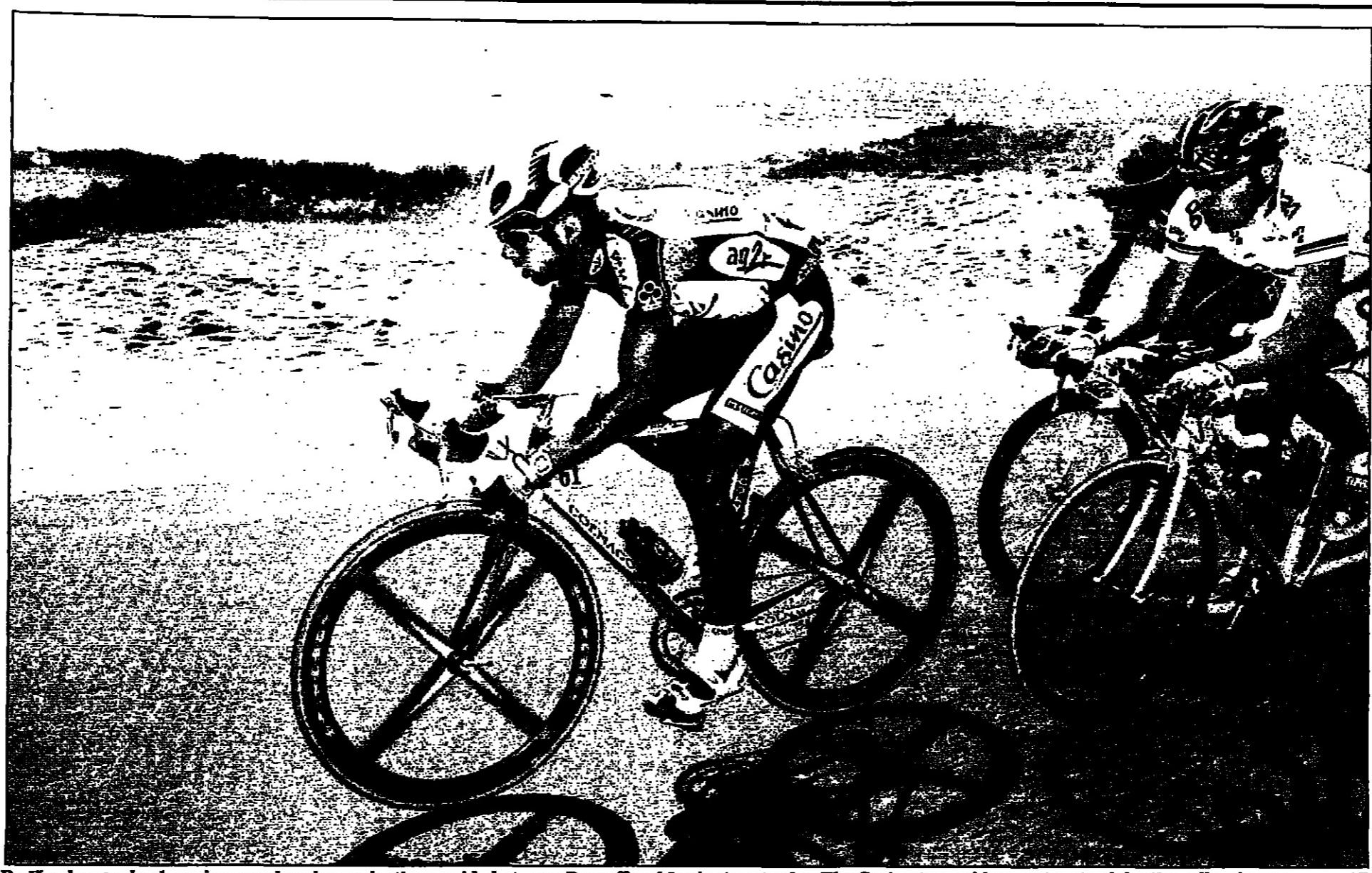
"I will continue to wear one. That was a real lesson for me. At the moment you are not forced to wear a helmet. If they made it obligatory then I would have no objection to it, but I know a lot of my colleagues would."

Boardman, who was wearing the leader's yellow jersey at the time of the crash, had a brain scan and was detained overnight for observation.

"I remember nothing of the crash. I haven't got a clue what happened," he said. "I remember riding cross-winds, and the next thing I remember is waking up and looking at the ceiling of the ambulance. The first thing I did was wiggle my toes - I knew then I wasn't too bad."

Boardman was more concerned about 11-year-old Laura Seward, who was seriously hurt in a separate accident, than himself. The girl was still critically ill yesterday after sustaining serious head and other injuries when struck by one of the riders just minutes before the GAN rider came off.

"There's no way I'm going to moan about a few scratches," he said.



Bo Hamburger leads a nine-man breakaway by the seaside between Roscoff and Lorient yesterday. The Casino team rider went on to claim the yellow jersey AP

Hamburger has day to relish

CYCLING

BY ROBIN NICHOLL
with the Tour de France

JENS HEPPNER became the latest "bad boy" of the 1997 Tour to restore his honour when he foiled French chances of an extra celebration on Bastille Day.

On Sunday the Belgian Tom Steels won, thereby going some way to compensating for his expulsion from last year's race, for throwing a plastic bottle at another rider in a sprint finish.

Then the German Erik Zabel, who was also disqualified in the same sprint in Marennes, took over the race lead on Monday.

Yesterday, his team-mate

Hamburger beat the Xavier Jan of France in a sprinting duel at the finale of the third stage, and the first on French soil.

Last year Heppner and the Dutchman Bart Voskamp were involved in a similar battle at Le Puy du Fou and were disqualified after leaning on each other in the final sprint.

Heppner joined a 129km escape by eight riders, with the intention of protecting team-mate Zabel's yellow jersey of Tour leader. His co-leaders were too ambitious for one man to contain, so when he realised that Zabel was about to lose his overall lead to Denmark's Bo Hamburger, Heppner went on the offensive.

"I decided to attack, and all through the last kilometre I thought about Voskamp, and I told myself not to act silly this time."

Hamburger missed the winning move, but scored full marks with his mathematics. He now leads by two seconds from

the American George Hincapie after finishing fourth behind George Hincapie in the stage.

They chased home two seconds after the duelling sprinters, followed by their co-leaders, but Hamburger's sprinting had picked up sufficient time bonuses to bring him to within a second of Zabel.

Hincapie was upset over the sprinting of Heppner and Jan in the pace-setting of the small group.

"The FDJ guy [Jan] and Telekom guy [Heppner] were sitting up all day," Hincapie said, implying that they were not pushing hard during the fast pace.

"With a sprint like that at the end it is different because everyone is so wasted except for those two other guys," he added.

The result gave Hamburger

and his co-leaders a lead of one minute and eight seconds over the German put Hamburger in yellow, and he gave the credit to his baby daughter.

Becoming a father has changed my attitude completely, and my morale is higher than ever," Hamburger said later, whose new French team Casino have scored 42 victories this season.

Last year he was beaten to the world road race title by Frenchman Laurent Brochard in San Sebastian, but Hamburger feels his change of team and baby daughter have each given him a new lease of life.

The only hamburger that interested French fans was those they were cooking on roadside barbecues. It was July 14 - Bastille Day - and banners flew, proclaiming "Allez Les Bleus" or, as one Breton demanded, "Un maillot jaune pour Zizou."

Zidane would doubtless be happy with his lot. Yellow jerseys have a nasty habit of biting the wearer, as Chris Boardman discovered on Monday.

He joined a long list of fallen leaders. One of the last yellow jersey wearers to crash was Rolf Sorensen from Denmark in 1991.

Hamburger is precariously placed. Two seconds from Hincapie is nothing, and those involved in yesterday's long breakaway find themselves in striking distance.

The real Tour should begin once Jan Ullrich and his rivals rise to the top, so for the also-rans these are the days to grab glory. Even as fleeting as the glory held by Boardman and Zabel.

TOUR DE FRANCE Stage three Roscoff-Lorient 104.8 miles/169km Start: Roscoff Landivisiau Brest 4 hrs Trevrezet Châteaulin du Faou Quimper Roscoff Finale: Lorient 104.8 miles/169km

Start: Plouay Baud Locmiqué Plumelec Secouette Roscoff Redon Blud Ancenis Liec Nantes Morlaix Cholet Lire

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TODAY: STAGE 4 Plouay-Croët 156.2 miles/252km Start: Plouay Baud Locmiqué Plumelec Secouette Roscoff Redon Blud Ancenis Liec Nantes Morlaix Cholet Lire

Festina deny masseur's drugs claim

A FESTINA masseur has allegedly told a French magistrate that he was carrying performance-enhancing drugs in his car for the team and not for personal use.

Willy Voet, a 53-year-old Belgian, had previously said the drugs were for his own use and had nothing to do with Festina, who are among the Tour de France favourites. He was detained last week after customs

officers in the French-Belgian border town of Neuville-en-Ferrain discovered anabolic steroids in his car, which was painted in Festina colours.

Judicial sources in Lille said yesterday that Voet, who has been charged with possession of banned substances, now says he was acting on team orders.

Bruno Roussel, the Festina team manager, called the accusations "absurd", denied

asking one of his masseurs to procure substances which are forbidden by law and refused to pull his team out of the race.

"These are riders who work all year long and train a lot in order to get there, who have done nothing wrong," he said. "All that I know is that they have done nothing bad."

The Tour director, Jean-Marie Leblanc, will not take any action until he hears something official. "We would be in trouble if I made a decision against Festina and then they were cleared," he said.

said: "Roussel is very surprised by this news and he wants to see the police as soon as possible to bring some serenity back to his team. This is an unbearable situation for them."

The Tour director, Jean-Marie Leblanc, will not take any action until he hears something official. "We would be in trouble if I made a decision against Festina and then they were cleared," he said.

There is no mystery about the American team. Agassi and Courier, 13-8 in Cup play, will compete in singles. The 8,461-seat Stadium Court at the Indianapolis Tennis Center will be set up with about 5,200 seats.

Both teams were scheduled to have two practice sessions at the tennis facility yesterday, and the draw for the matches will be held tomorrow when the captains must announce their line-up.

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The same four players who represented the United States in that tie at Stone Mountain, Georgia, are back to wear their national red-white-and-blue

uniform. "We are a very solid team with Andre and Jim. Todd and I played well together against the Russians," said Reneberg, who at 32 is the oldest player to represent the country since 33-year-old John McEnroe last played for the U.S. in 1992. "We have some continuity and we all know what to do and what not to do."

Belgium's captain, Koen Gommans, doesn't plan to announce his lineup until tomorrow.

Agassi still thrilled to answer the Davis Cup call

TENNIS

INDIVIDUALS ARE being pushed aside by the thrill of representing one's country, say members of the United States team that will start competing against Belgium in Indianapolis on Friday.

"It's nice to come together as a team and play for your country," said Andre Agassi, who tied the US record of 16 consecutive victories in Davis Cup play earlier this year.

Agassi, who like teammate

a week off to spend time with his wife, actress Brooke Shields.

Courier has a unique streak going as he represents the US for the 12th time. The Americans have never lost a tie when Courier has been on the team.

It's no big deal, he said as the team made a public appearance at a Planet Hollywood restaur-

ant on a lot of good teams. When they've needed me to come up with a good result, I have. And when I've gone out and lost the fourth match, Andre or someone else has won the crucial fifth match."

Meanwhile, the man promoting ticket sales for the event said he's been encouraged by recent interest.

"Sales were a little soft," said Russ Cline, who has been promoting ticket sales for Davis Cup events in the United States instead of taking advantage of

any other second-round ties I've done."

Cline said he was hopeful of having between 4,000 to 5,000 spectators at each day of the competition. The 8,461-seat Stadium Court at the Indianapolis Tennis Center will be set up with about 5,200 seats.

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Smithies aiming to settle a score

Guy Hodgson meets an England captain ready to face Australia without an inferiority complex

YOU MIGHT think they would know better. Call something the Ashes and Australians subject you to decades of sporting gloom, lightened only by occasional and unexpected shafts of light. But try telling that to England's women's cricketers. They are determined to commit the folly.

Next Tuesday at Lord's, a bat will be ceremoniously set alight and part of the charred remains will be stuffed into a mounted hall to become the latest cricket trophy we probably will not see much of again. Brace yourselves for generations of Down Under dominance.

Or maybe not. Unlike their male counterparts, England's women have at least won the World Cup and can see an Australian cricket cap without suffering a sharp sense of inferiority. There are even grounds for believing the Ashes might stay in this country, something the men have not managed since 1986-87.

The Australians are the world one-day champions, but are relatively inexperienced at

Test match length and if England can hold on to the coattails of the tourists over the sprints, they might prevail over the longer distance. That is the theory anyway, and one that survived a rain-affected defeat at Scarborough on Sunday.

"A lot of positive things came out of that game," Karen Smithies, the England captain, said. "There's a thing throughout English cricket that the Australians are always better than us, but although we are underdogs we know we can beat them. The one-day series will be important in terms of confidence, and that will be very close."

The series resumes today at Derby before going on to Hove and Southampton at the weekend, and Lord's next week. After that, the captain for the three Tests (each lasting three days) will be announced, and it would be a surprise if Smithies, top scorer with 41 in Scarborough, is not reappointed.

As Smithies has been in the England team for 12 years and captain for six, it is easy to regard her as living on borrowed

time at international level, but she is only 29 and, as Sunday proved, is some way short of her sell-by date. As the standard of English women's cricket has got better, so has she.

Awarded the OBE after England won the World Cup under her leadership, she has presided over the national team at a time when they have gone from being a slightly eccentric offshoot of the game to being accepted into its core, the England and Wales Cricket Board, BSkyB will screen today's

match as well as Sunday's encounter at Southampton, and there will also be coverage of the Test series.

It is a considerable departure from her own start when she used to get a game with her father's miners' welfare club in Leicestershire — going on to captain the boys' Under-18 side for two seasons — and one that was given its biggest shove by England's World Cup win five years ago.

Australia lost out to England in 1993 but gained ample re-

venge in India last year when they recorded an eight-wicket win en route to becoming world champions. "They are the best team around without any doubt," Smithies said. "Their fielding is superb, skipper Belinda Clark they have one of the best batters in the women's game and Kathryn Fitzpatrick is probably the fastest female bowler in the world."

Even so, England's demise that day was undoubtedly aided by a nightmare preparation that included a six-hour coach

journey with only three hours' sleep before having to catch a plane, and a practice session washed out by rain.

"The schedule we had was horrendous, it should never have happened," she said. "Early get-ups, 20-hour days, they were the norm and when you take into account the travel and the different food, it wasn't practical. Not when you're trying to play international cricket."

"The game in Nagpur was a shock to us because we'd been playing sides like Ireland and

Denmark, who we'd thrashed out of sight, and all of a sudden we were up against a good outfit. It was bit of a massacre."

"Demoralising it might have been, but it has given the current series a sharper edge. "Australia are always the ones you want to play against," she said, "particularly now they are world champions and they took the crown off us. It's a bit of a needle contest. I'd regard winning this tour as the next best thing to winning the World Cup."

Peter Jay

Karen Smithies: "There's a thing in English cricket that Australia are always better than us, but we know we can beat them"

Karen Smithies

Test

England

Women

Cricket

World Cup

India

Team

Series

Test

Match

Score

</



SPORT

ENGLAND'S WIN-ONLY CRICKET CAPTAIN P28 • BATTERED BOARDMAN'S LUCKY ESCAPE P25

Playing Ronaldo was 'absurd'

FOOTBALL

BY MARK BURTON
AND JEREMY LAURANCE

A RED carpet was rolled out and a trip to the presidential palace laid on, but it was not the homecoming that had been planned for Brazil's World Cup team. The traditional triumphant parade of Brazilian sporting heroes riding on a fire engine was not required; a coach sacrificed for the beaten finalists when they trooped off their

plane in Brasilia after the long flight home from France.

However, any criticism centred not on tactics or player performances but on the decision to ask Ronaldo to play in the final hours after he had suffered a fit.

That attitude was shared by Massimo Moratti, the owner of Ronaldo's Italian club Internazionale. He accused the Brazilian federation of behaving "in an absurd manner". Its actions could have had much more serious consequences. Now I only hope that Ronaldo has the

chance to rest, because he was put under unusual pressure."

There was sympathy for that view from the British medical profession. Dr Alfred Medagoda, of the David Lewis Centre for Epilepsy in Cheshire, said that exposing the player to further risk of injury by making him play in the final was potentially dangerous. "He would be likely to have felt dazed and confused for some time, depending on whether it was a major or minor fit. Anyone who has had a fit should be rested.

It can add to the original injury to continue playing," he said.

Adrian Williams, professor of clinical neurology at Birmingham University, said that if Ronaldo had suffered a mild seizure, he found it difficult to believe that the medical advice would have been for him to play.

It is not yet clear what caused Ronaldo to have the fit. Dr Medagoda suggested that blows to the head that any footballer will suffer shake the brain and could trigger a seizure. An

alternative view was that stress,

exacerbated by a build-up in nervous tension ahead of such an important match, could have generated the problem.

Professor Cary Cooper, the head of psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, believes the Brazilian's predicament was symptomatic of the pressure felt by the world's best young players.

"You can have a mild fit if you are put under enormous pressure and stress," he said. "Just think about all the pressure

which had been placed on Ronaldo's shoulders by the media, the fans, commercial demands. If you put these kinds of pressure on young and talented players it is going to have an effect."

A person's own view can be different. Ronaldo once said: "You can cope with all the difficulties that life presents when you are young."

That attitude may be essential in a player who aims to make it to the top. But perhaps Ronaldo's problems on Sunday should serve as a warning to

others, like Michael Owen, England's 18-year-old striker, who is due to come face to face with the Brazilian when Liverpool play Inter in a pre-season match on 4 August.

Fifa, world football's governing body, made rule changes to protect the quick, skilful, entertaining players like Ronaldo and Owen from physical damage at France 98, but Keith Cooper, their communications director, said it was up to national teams to look after themselves. Fifa was prepared

to advise any team on any medical problem. "But," he said, "I think if you go and play in the World Cup, you must expect to come under a certain amount of stress." He said that although it was not clear what had happened to Ronaldo, "the fact remains that France won 3-0. Ronaldo played and he looked fit on the field."

England and France shared the Fifa Fair Play Award for the World Cup finals and each will receive £1m-worth of equipment for youth football.

Beckham is cause for concern

BY MARK PIERSON

DAVID BECKHAM reported for pre-season training with Manchester United yesterday amid growing concern over how supporters will treat him in the coming months.

Beckham's father Ted, was reported yesterday, to have voiced fears over how his son might react to continuing criticism of his role in England's World Cup second round game against Argentina. Beckham was sent off in the game, which England lost on penalties.

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, has already called for extra security when his team travel to West Ham for their first away Premiership match of the season on 22 August.

West Ham supporters are planning to taunt Beckham with 10,000 red cards, while an effigy of him has been strung up outside a London pub. A banner reading "Beckham: August 22 = hell" was found pinned to the main gates of Upton Park last week.

The Professional Footballers' Association said yesterday that it would be "extremely spiteful" if Beckham were hounded out of Britain by critical supporters. Brendan Batson, the PFA's deputy chief executive, also said that Beckham's departure would be a

huge loss to the domestic game.

"It would be sad to think that, because of other people's reactions, a player would feel he is no longer welcome here," he said. "Most right-minded supporters and football lovers do not want to see a player as talented as him go."

"We want to see our best players here rather than watch them on television playing somewhere else. It would be an extremely spiteful campaign to do that against a player like Beckham."

Manchester United are trying to defuse the situation and are keen to play down the affair. But it is clear that Ferguson faces his biggest man-management test since he persuaded Eric Cantona not to turn his back on football after his ban in 1995.

Ferguson is becoming irritated by the continued furore and he told ClubCall: "We want to get David out training, get back to the football and forget all the hype and nonsense which has been said."

Ferguson has said all along that he would ease his players from the World Cup back into action and it is expected Beckham will make his reappearance during United's three-game Scandinavian tour, which starts at the end of this month.

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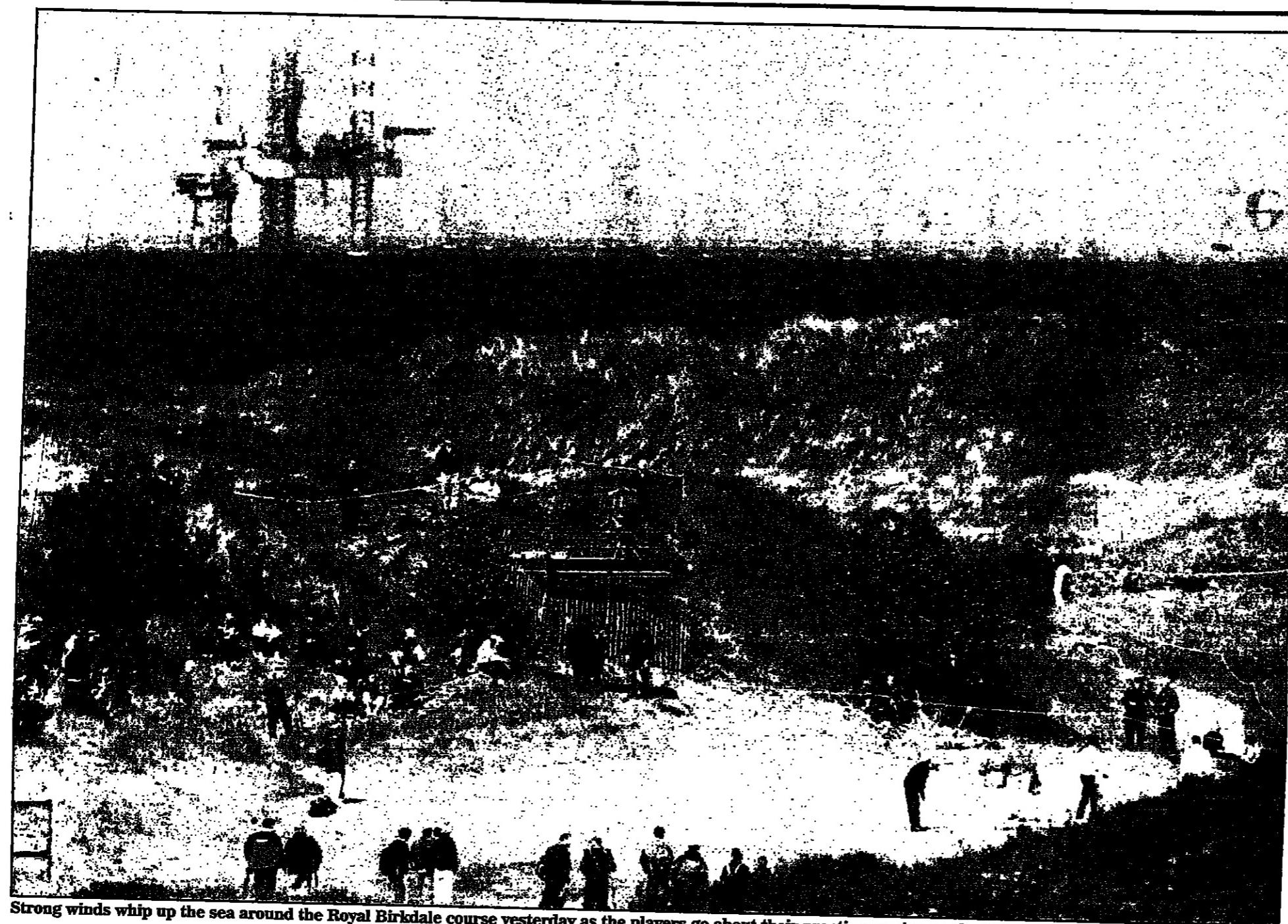
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Strong winds whip up the sea around the Royal Birkdale course yesterday as the players go about their practice session on the 11th green

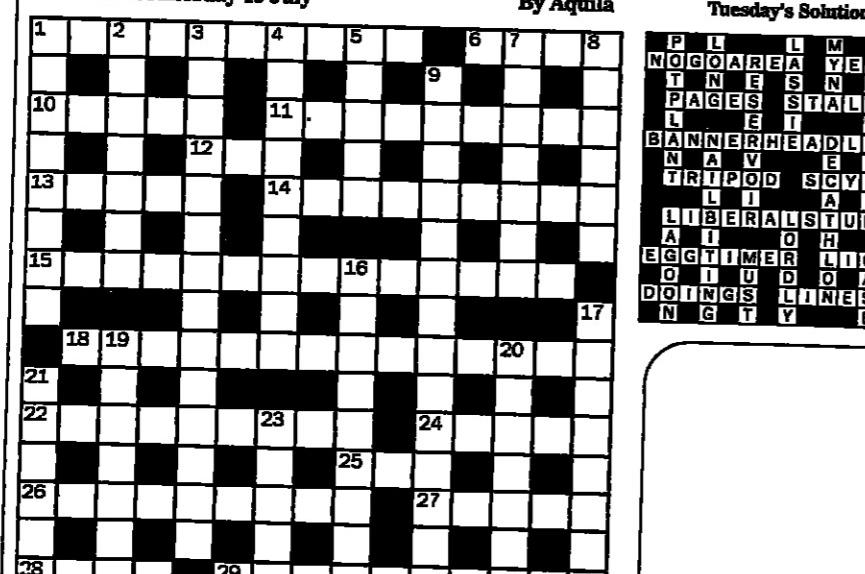
David Ashdown

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3663. Wednesday 15 July

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



ACROSS

- 1 Watch works in case pest menace is out of control (10)
- 6 Trunk upright at bow of vessel (4)
- 10 Right oven to cook joint (5)
- 11 Let car run freely by night (9)
- 12 Cause to worry swallow (3)
- 13 Epitaph besides cathedral town (5)
- 14 Relaxed for smooth departure? (4-5)
- 15 Painted Lady? (5,9)
- 18 Workers come out in them as lynx, say, attacks (7,7)
- 22 That can be repositioned in theatre (9)
- 24 Many fancy split segment of bulb (5)
- 25 Inflamed in French bed (3)
- 26 Polish piece of opaline so roughly (9)
- 27 Plonker, I do it the wrong way (5)
- 28 Understand male is to appear (4)
- 29 "Celebrities" put years on one (9)
- 30 Matzo menu — unusual for an Aztec emperor (9)
- 31 Chips in jugs (5)
- 32 Alice's illustrator, lement sort (7)
- 33 Disparage male dress in the army (8)
- 34 Common break from school? (6,8)
- 35 Garish flat (9)
- 36 Distress signal about hardest incombustible material (9)
- 37 Baby glued in position? (7)
- 38 Monarch very soon swallowed by? (7)
- 39 Clear linctus, for example, available without prescription (6,8)
- 40 Young felines heard in a state capital (5)

DOWN

- 1 A murder's planned, we hear (8)
- 2 Coriolanus opening inclined to be inhibited (7)
- 3 Clear linctus, for example, available without prescription (6,8)
- 19 Matzo menu — unusual for an Aztec emperor (9)
- 20 Greek very soon swallowed by? (7)
- 21 Wine-producers (6)
- 22 Young felines heard in a state capital (5)

Woods warming to the challenge

GOLF

BY ANDY FARRELL
at Royal Birkdale

TIGER WOODS will not be attacking the 127th Open with all barrels blazing, despite giving a remarkable demonstration of how he can harness the elements to overpower the toughest of golf courses. In his first practice round on Monday, Woods almost drove the green at the 457-yard eighth hole.

Obviously the hole was playing downwind — with gusts up to 45mph — and, turning in the opposite direction, giving the seventh hole, the powerful Woods could hit his three-iron no more than 152 yards. "Tiger hits his nine-iron that distance in normal conditions," Mark O'Meara, his practice partner, said. "They said it was a two-club wind, but that was a little more than a two-club wind."

At the eighth, which doglegs slightly to the left, the 22-year-old Woods took aim over the sand dunes and came up eight yards short of the green. "It was the biggest shot I've ever seen — and it didn't hit a cart path," O'Meara said.

"I'm pleased and surprised," Woods said. "I am about 80 per cent fit. The elbow was a little achy this morning but I didn't feel it over the last six holes, despite hitting a couple of proper drives. It must have clunked back into place or maybe it was warmed up by signing 200 autographs before the round."

Woods teed up his ball on the fairway at the second hole. "That's against the rules," someone shouted. "I've got a medical note," Woods replied. "I'm allowed."

He then knocked his ball into the semi-rough to play

from a cushioned lie and continued the policy for most of the round. Whether his elbow, on which he has had intensive physiotherapy and ultra-sound treatment for the last week, can stand up to playing out of the thicker rough went untested. "I haven't been in the thick stuff," he said. "I'm saving that for tomorrow."

Faldo will play with O'Meara in the first two rounds. Defending champion Justin Leonard has been paired with fellow American David Duval and Dane Thomas Bjorn, while Ernie Els and Tom Lehman were drawn together. But it was a largely uninspiring draw and one that leaves Lee Westwood playing with Brad Faxon and Namibia's Trevor Dods.

Scot Hoch, the American who has often missed the Open and once criticised St Andrews as only fit for sheep, plays with Steve Elkington and Patrik Sjoland. Hoch, who missed a two-footer when he only needed to putt it to beat Faldo in the 1989 Masters, now has a clause in a sponsor's contract saying he has to play in all the majors.

But he is here under surveillance. "The tradition of the tournament doesn't mean anything to me compared to the States," Hoch said. "This is just not my type of weather. I'm a hot weather player and I don't like the cold. If I had not been contracted to be here, I don't know whether I would have been here or not."

Taming the Tiger, page 24

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

There is a film currently on release called *Stiff Upper Lips*, a satire on both the class system and the British film establishment. Its opening scene is a running race in a Cambridge quadrangle, wrecked when a "toff" wades in front of one of the runners, who trips over him.

The young director Gary Sinyor is clearly parodying David Puttnam's Oscar-winning *Chariots of Fire*. The new film is undoubtedly infatuated in its humour. Yet it appears that Puttnam was privately hurt by the unsuitable mickey-mouse, not least because the award-winning young director had once written to him telling him he was his hero, and thanking him for starting him off in the film industry.

David Puttnam is justly a hero to many in the film industry and beyond. Yet he can be the target of both criticism and envy, and sometimes in extremely high places.

The film stars Dustin Hoffman (whom Puttnam called "a worrisome American pest"), Warren Beatty, Bill Cosby and Bill Murray all turn

BY DAVID LISTER

pace at the mention of the man who has become the Labour Government's most influential, and visible, cultural adviser. He crossed them all when he briefly ran a Hollywood studio.

The resentment has now taken root closer to home, and is potentially far more serious in its consequences. Lord Puttnam's long-cherished desire to be vice-chairman of the BBC has been thwarted, probably in favour of a fellow Blairite, Gail Rebuck, chief executive of Random House Publishing. Puttnam, ennobled by Blair, would have been a visionary figure at the corporation and was thought to have been the choice of the Culture Secretary Chris Smith, who has quickly given him the consolation prize of heading Nesta, the Government's scheme to invest more in science and the arts.

It seems that Puttnam burnt his boats with the BBC two years ago. At a Royal Television Society conference he roundly castigated the BBC for sacrificing investment in training and new talent because of its obsession with gearing up for the digital age. He was not to be forgiven.

"I don't think there's been any dishonesty," he said this week. "But it's been unutterably clumsy and insensitive. The BBC has been manipulative and rather underhanded. I have no time for the smoke-and-mirrors way of dealing with people. The BBC had every opportunity of telling me I wasn't suitable, but instead they insulted me by pretending that they were considering me."

It is their loss, and probably Britain's too. In Puttnam, they would have had on board an outspoken ideologue, whose passions - education, training, the development of young talent, the fight for the British film industry against the domination of Hollywood - would have won the BBC much-needed respect; a commodity in short supply following years of hacking away at its own production and talent base.

And, as he said, they would have had someone who has no time for the smoke-and-mirrors way of dealing with people. If Puttnam's impulsive condemnation of Blair's policy cost him the job at the BBC, it's typical of the man. He never shirks from voicing his beliefs for the sake of personal or political considerations.

Though he is often caricatured as a Blairite hooligan, Britain's best-known film producer is curiously untypical in his passions. If you sit down with him, as I have done, on the terrace of a top hotel at the Cannes Film Festival, he will not talk about Hollywood stars, but will become evangelical about the need to train young people in the British film industry; and how to pay for that training by compelling film distributors and video shops to pay a levy.

He is passionate about Britain and about raising standards, be it in schools and in the film business - he is on government committees set up to do both. Puttnam himself left school at 16 to join an advertising company before moving into film production. In the Eighties, he was the British film industry, more or less. And the films - *Chariots of Fire*, *The Killing Fields*, *The Mission* and *Local Hero* - reflected the man: they were populist, intelligent, uplifting, charming but sincere. For a later film, *Memphis Belle*, he argued long but unsuccessfully with the American studio for the crew of the eponymous bomber to be British. Here is another absolutely essential key to understanding Puttnam.

His friend, the actress Sarah Miles, has said: "The point about Puttnam is, if suddenly someone said to him, 'Look, English tennis is really down the nickname this year and enter Wimbleton next year, you've got a good chance of getting into the finals', he would. You see, he really cares enough about England to do anything for it. Something impossible - he'd try to do it for England."

The tennis metaphor was well chosen. As a teenager Puttnam competed at junior Wimbleton, but never picked up a racket again after he realised he wasn't going to be good enough to compete at the very highest level. Now that he's retiring from producing films, he wants still to do something for England, and still at the very highest level.

His long-time associate Hugh Hudson, director of *Chariots of Fire*, once said of him: "He wishes he could direct films. The memory of his father drives him forward. He considers his father [a Fleet Street photographer whom he idolised] was an artist and wishes he could be one. But he likes power and control..."

However, that really was to miss the point. The great thing about Puttnam is that he utilises his power and control for ends that are both ideal-



Yoram Kahana/Shooting Star

So what's David Puttnam ever done to you?

This week the nation's favourite film producer failed to become Vice-Chairman of the BBC and had to settle for second best. And this despite appearing eminently qualified for the job and benefiting from heavy support. Whose nose did he put out of joint? And how?

istic and patriotic, and not in fact caught in the trendy limelight of Cool Britannia. Neither youth training, nor the issues surrounding intellectual copyright, is likely to generate parties at the Fashion Café.

Nor are the issues he raises with Government exactly showbizzy. He wanted a levy on video rentals and films transmitted by electronic means. Ten pence on every rental, he says, could be invested in training programmes, while a second levy would be ploughed back into domestic productions. That way, the British industry could train film-makers to make more British films and compete in the global market.

That was too much like socialism for this Government, which has compromised with proposals for a trial "voluntary" levy.

Puttnam sees the world hurtling towards an information and education age, and worries that Hollywood will carve up this embryonic industry, much as it did with films.

"If we move fast, we could become the Hollywood of education," he says. "With our national curriculum, plus the skills of bodies such as the BBC, the Open University and the British Council, Britain could be the place where educational software is developed, finessed and marketed in a way that has never been possible in any other sector."

At the root of it all is an obsession that has governed Puttnam for a decade or more - the fact that the film industry in Europe but is dominated by a Hollywood whose aesthetic values he abhors. Education, training and the proper funding of Britain's young talent is one way to begin to redress the balance. The more complex area of producing educational software for the world is another. These should not be contentious views.

Perhaps where Puttnam puts people's backs up is in his refusal to compromise on his crusading zeal, and his occasional failure to concern himself with the effects on others of his principled stands. This was most apparent in his unhappy, if lucrative, time heading Columbia Studios in Hollywood in the mid-Eighties.

David Thomson, author of *A Biographical Dictionary of Film*, summarises it with faint praise: "His strengths were English and Puttnam was cheerfully disapproving of many things American."

can. At Columbia he handled himself like an outsider. He announced lower budgets, lower salaries, braver pictures, and a lot of opportunities for European directors.

"Did he ever plan on staying long?" Or did he prefer to be a gambler, and a challenge? Was it too laborious, or too American, to apply his serial worthwhile ideas slowly, with cunning duplicity, and all the other American methods? He lasted less than two years and it's arguable that his rhetoric and his provocation did more damage than good. It's unlikely that anyone else will ever get such a chance again.

The experience left Puttnam with encephalomyocarditis, a viral disease affecting the skeletal and nervous systems which recurs four or five times a year and, says Puttnam, has "sort of blighted my life".

One of Puttnam's closest allies, both in his Hollywood experience and in a friendship lasting 35 years, is the film director Alan Parker, chairman of the British Film Institute and director of *Midnight Express*, among other films produced by Puttnam.

What he has to say about Puttnam and the BBC is revealing. "The best analogy is the Columbia example. David was determined to bring in a different ethos and back the creatives. The Hollywood system is all about making money. David put creativity above everything else. I remember him making a speech to the entire board of Coca-Cola, which owned Columbia then. He told them that profit should not be the reason for being in the film industry. They stared at him in disbelief."

"He is very purist about the BBC. And I believe that, as with Columbia, the powers that be at Blant Burt and, from what I read, Mandelson,

do not want an outsider coming in. Over the years he has been passionate about what the BBC means."

"David is clever and smart and, despite his government jobs, is not an establishment figure and never has been. So they get a bit scared of him."

Puttnam once told his biographer, Andrew Yule: "Something I find hard to deal with, because I don't have any envy. I find it an extraordinarily difficult emotion to comprehend. I come up against it a lot... When people are envious of me and react negatively, what are they envious of? The fact that I've made successful movies? Enough successful movies to have been able to afford and to have the life I've had? Several friends of mine have a problem with how happy my marriage is. They think it's unjust; they think it's wrong; that I don't deserve this charmed life."

This week, life was a little less charmed, and Lord Puttnam suffered one of his biggest disappointments. But the real and depressing significance of the BBC's rejection of him is that the corporation and its allies in Government remain wary of a patriotic crusader with a mission to raise standards, who will not hesitate to speak his thoughts in public.

In his movies Puttnam, an expert on both modern and classical music, paid particular attention to the scores, as the wildly successful Vangelis score to *Chariots of Fire* showed. But one of his favourite pieces of music comes from the first film he ever saw, at the age of seven. It is "When You Wish Upon a Star" from *Pinochet*. At the age of 37, that idealism is undimmed, and an asset to Britain's cultural future, whether the BBC wishes to harness it or not.

Nick Hancock - an apology

An article entitled "Forever in-ge-land" by Suzanne Moore (16 June) said that the yob culture of the football terraces has been promoted by those who should know better. Unfortunately, we wrongly attributed to Nick Hancock, the prominent TV presenter, the suggestion that had been made on *Fantasy World Cup Live* the previous night that viewers should headbutt a TV licence detector if they came to the house during a World Cup game. This was incorrect. We accept that Mr Hancock never made this statement, and that he does not promote or condone violence and has never done so. We apologise to Mr Hancock for the distress and embarrassment caused by this error.

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BBC newsreaders in uproar

The BBC's leading newsreaders are in uproar because the corporation is refusing to renew their contracts before planned changes to its news programmes.

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New PR sell for the Dome

Some of Labour's favourite PR men have been drafted in to help sell the Millennium Dome as part of a £23m marketing campaign.

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FOREIGN NEWS

PAGES 12 - 15

UN delegation arrives in Algeria

A high-level United Nations delegation arrived in Algeria last night for a two-week mission that offers the outside world its best hope yet of learning the truth about the savagery and human rights abuses committed in a six-year civil war, which has taken at least 65,000 lives.

Page 13

Asian ministers face up to crisis

Asian foreign ministers meet in the Philippines this week in an atmosphere of economic crisis, political uncertainty and growing retribution toward Japan. Foreign ministers from the nine countries of ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations), including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, will begin formal deliberations on Friday after the region's most difficult year since the Second World War.

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SPORTS NEWS

PAGES 22 - 28

Everton chase after Dacort

Everton are hoping to sign the French midfielder Olivier Dacort in a £3m transfer from Strasbourg, while Crystal Palace are willing to pay £2.5m for two Argentines – Christian Ledesma and Pablo Rodriguez.

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Gymnast paralysed at Games

A 17-year-old Chinese gymnast was paralysed from the neck down after falling during the warm-up for the vault event on the third day of the Goodwill Games in New York. Sang Lan, China's champion women's vaulter, broke two vertebrae in her back.

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THURSDAY REVIEW
20-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

David Aaronovitch

"How can we now argue against the outing of senior members of the Church of England, on the basis that their sexuality is their own business? No, by God, let's have them out. And then let's chuck them out."

Page 3

Hamish McRae

"It can be very hard when you are in the middle of a revolution to realise quite what is happening, but we are. I think, in the middle of one now, one that occurs only every couple of hundred years."

Page 4

Bidisha

"Willing gentlemen are delivered to the girl's door for her decantation or rejection. She might meet someone she likes, or she might change her mind about the whole thing. It is different from, and a lot safer than, placing a lonely heart ad in Time Out."

Page 4

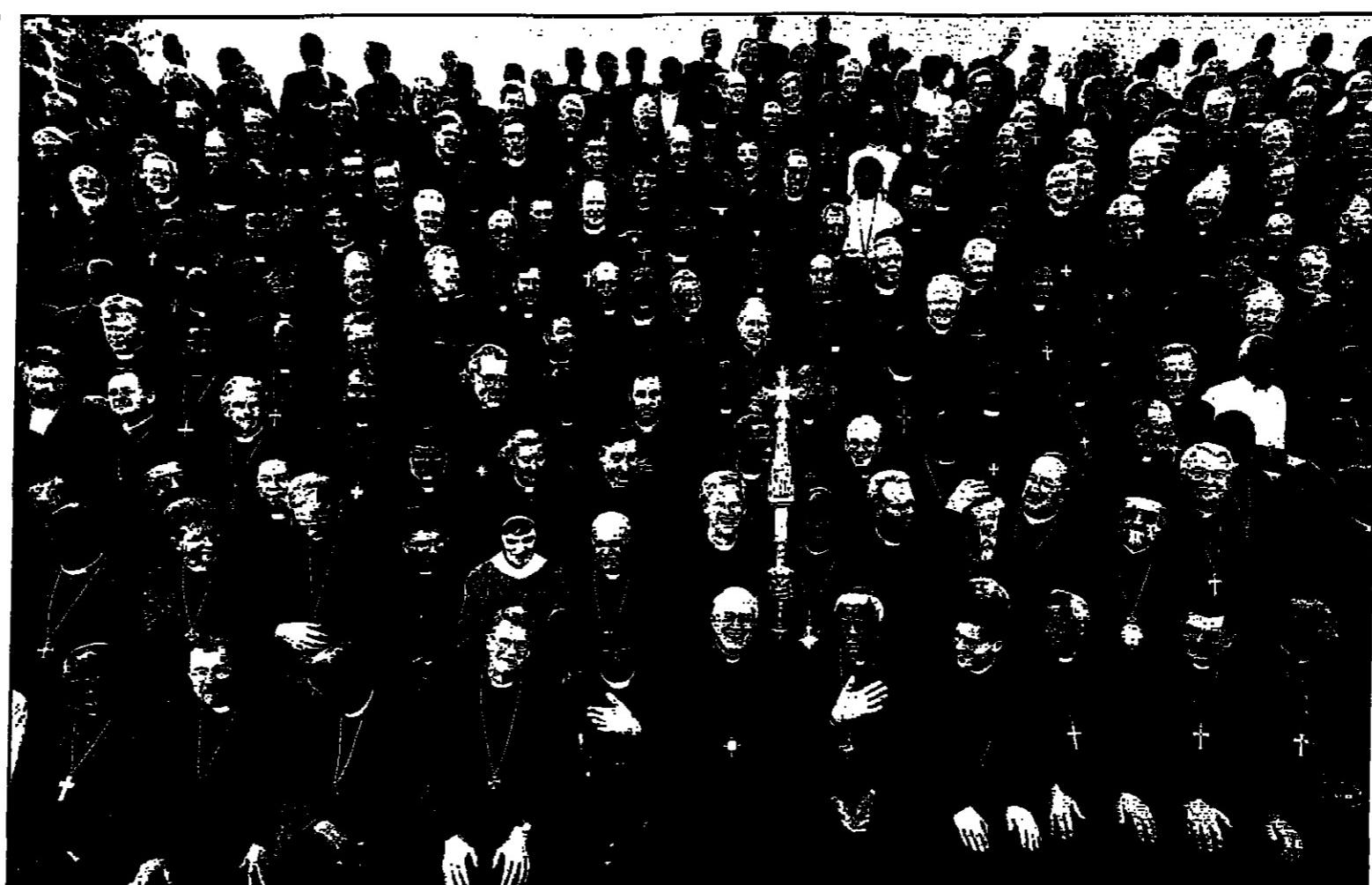
Andrew Marshall

"The American economy is motoring along as well as it has done since the Sixties, and people just aren't bothered by the things that the politicians would like to them to care about. Like politics. Things seem fine: why vote?" This "What, me, worry?" attitude has put the President at the top of the opinion polls, and probably will keep him there."

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Cryptic crossword, section one, page 28



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Carey, opens his arms in welcome to the 739 Anglican bishops at the Lambeth Conference David Rose

Bishops cancel gay event

A PRESENTATION by a group of ordained lesbian, gay and bisexual Christians to the Lambeth Conference of Bishops, scheduled for today, has been cancelled at the last minute in the face of fierce opposition from senior clergy.

The decision to repress the presentation was taken at a section meeting on Tuesday night which took place behind closed doors. One bishop asked why, if they were discussing homo-

BY CLARE GARNER
at the Lambeth Conference

sexuality, they were not discussing bestiality and child abuse, too.

The Bishop of Johannesburg, the Rt Rev Duncan Buchanan, who had arranged the presentation, was said to be "shell shocked" by the extreme reaction.

The Rev Colin Coward, an openly gay priest who runs

Changing Attitudes, the organisation invited to do the presentation, said yesterday: "The meeting last night was so traumatic that it was decided by Duncan Buchanan that the presentation wouldn't work."

"He was deeply emotionally affected by the strength and ferocity of feelings and the dynamic of the group."

The presentation was to have been by 20 ordained gay and lesbian Christians, seven of

whom were going to speak of their personal experiences. Afterwards there was going to be 45 minutes of questioning.

However, Bishops at the section meeting voted two-thirds in favour of cancelling today's presentation.

THE IR REV JOHN SPONG, the ultra-liberal Bishop of Newark, New Jersey, said it was a discouraging meeting. "Sixty bishops voted Duncan Buchanan down and they don't even want

to talk to gays. One African bishop said 'Why don't we discuss bestiality and child abuse if we're going to discuss homosexuality?'

"They impugned the integrity of Duncan Buchanan."

A Conservative American bishop said: "Several bishops said that if there were to be homosexuals speaking we should also have people who live a celibate lifestyle, or have been healed of homosexuality."

Lockerbie trial may start next week

THE LIBYANS could be asked to hand over two Lockerbie bombing suspects for trial in The Hague as early as next week, Foreign Office sources said last night.

As Downing Street confirmed, that Tony Blair had had talks with President Bill Clinton about the idea, it emerged that officials were tying up final

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

details of a deal. Although they stressed that there was still some way to go, the negotiations between the UK and US and Holland could break a deadlock over the issue.

At Prime Minister's Questions, Mr Blair said the issue

was complex and added: "We've got to make sure that any solution we come up with is fully consistent with our absolute commitment to the integrity of the Scottish judicial system."

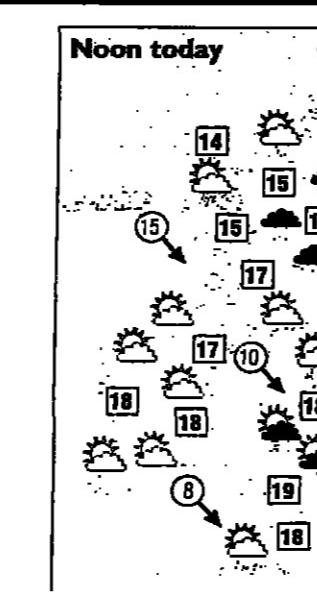
Britain and the US have maintained that two Libyans charged with the Pan Am bombing in December 1988 which killed 270 people should

be tried in Scotland or the US. Libya has argued that the men won't get a fair trial.

The latest suggestion, put by the Foreign Secretary Robin Cook to the American Secretary of State Madeleine Albright at Christmas, would see the men tried in The Hague under Scottish law by five judges, one of whom would be their Scottish lawyer.

The Government is under pressure to bring the case to court because of several factors, trade being one, but if nothing happens before the Scottish Parliament is set up in the year

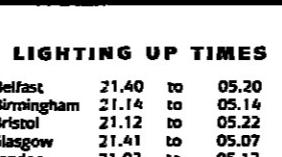
3,000, its members may pass a Bill allowing the case to be tried in The Hague, which would put them into conflict with the English Parliament.



Eastern Scotland and north-east England will have some rain this morning, but it will become brighter this afternoon. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny breaks and a scattering of showers. Wales and north-west England will have a showery morning, but it will become drier and brighter for the afternoon. South-east England and East Anglia will have some sunshine at first. However, showers across the south-west and the Midlands will spread eastwards later.

NEXT FEW DAYS

England and Wales will be largely dry tomorrow with some sunshine at times. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be breezy with frequent showers and longer spells of rain in the far north of Scotland. There will be warm sunshine for most parts on Saturday but cloud and rain will move into the west towards evening. The dry, warm weather may hold on in the south-east on Sunday, but everywhere else will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain.



BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

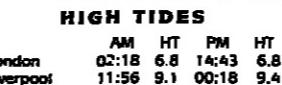
Most recent available figure at noon local time.

Key: C:cloudy; Cl:clear; F:fg; fog;

H:heavy M:mist; R:rain; S:sunny;

S:street; Sh:showers; Sn:snow;

T:thunder.



THE WORLD

Most recent available figure at noon local time.

Key: C:cloudy; Cl:clear; F:fg; fog;

H:heavy M:mist; R:rain; S:sunny;

S:street; Sh:showers; Sn:snow;

T:thunder.



Low M will move gradually north-east. High A will move east and build.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Most recent available figure at noon local time.

Key: C:cloudy; Cl:clear; F:fg; fog;

H:heavy M:mist; R:rain; S:sunny;

S:street; Sh:showers; Sn:snow;

T:thunder.



"A GRISHAM THRILLER HAS RARELY BEEN THIS SEXY OR THIS MUCH FUN." "INTENSE, POWERFUL, DARK AND DANGEROUS." — NICK HORNBY



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Money is welcome, but what about the teachers and nurses?

YESTERDAY WAS a defining moment for Tony Blair's New Labour Government, the day when it finally broke its umbilical link with Thatcherism. After more than two decades of rolling back the state, there was a declaration of support for the public sector. And given its decrepit state, and the dreadful morale among many of its employees, it is welcome to hear such a positive tone being taken - although it hardly required a crystal ball to see that the Government would make priorities of spending on health and education. It had, after all, spent two years and an election campaign saying precisely that.

Calling this a Comprehensive Spending Review, however, is a misnomer. The CSR has been valuable, but it is about reordering priorities within existing spending parameters. Spending an extra £2bn on the NHS is all very welcome. But there is a danger of blundering into an ever growing state and undoing much of the good work of the Eighties - ironically, at a time when most of Europe is following Britain's lead. The Chancellor has tried to square the public spending circle by managing, all at the same time, to increase public spending, keep taxes down, maintain both the image and reality of fiscal prudence and in line with his unfulfilled political ambition remain recognisably "socialist" in his actions.

So after 14 months, we now know what the Government wishes to be seen. And it is clear that New Labour is certainly not Conservatism in different clothes. If this illusive Third Way can ever be defined, the Government came closest yesterday. For the Conservatives, the state was something to be sold off - or ignored. Gordon Brown showed that New Labour believes in the power of the state to do good, which is why he is putting more money into the priority areas. That, though, poses another question. Up to yesterday, every one of the Government's vaunted spending initiatives has been a mirage - no extra money, but a reallocation of existing resources. Although yesterday's plans do indeed reveal significant extra spending, the caveats accompanying some of the announcements - that they are dependent upon efficiency gains, for instance - mean that the figures should not be taken at face value. Nonetheless, there are some real increases in spending.

And therein lies the worry. As the baseball player Yogi Berra once said, "this is déjà vu all over again". How often before have we heard spurious claims that spending is to be financed out of growth? By tying the public finances to a three-year plan he is banking on today's



economic prosperity lasting at least another 36 months. Many sober judges argue that this is at best unlikely. If recession takes hold - even if there is a soft landing - there will be a double-whammy of increased unemployment pay and decreased tax revenue. The extra public spending will need to be paid for, and, with borrowing ruled out, that can only mean putting up taxes.

Given the resistance to increased taxation, this could undermine Labour's chances of a second term. There is one other familiar flaw in this review. The simplistic notion that capital spending is good, current spending bad, has been wheeled out for another airing. But we can have all the shining schools and hospitals in the

world; without teachers and doctors and nurses they are useless. There is a fine line to be drawn between a proper check on public sector pay and a sensible reward to state employees. The shortage of decent teachers and the dearth of applicants for nursing shows the truth of the adage that if you pay peanuts you get monkeys. Somehow we need to make such jobs attractive for people of the highest calibre, and revive the lure of working in the public sector. The Chancellor's strictures will only hinder this.

The Government has had a year in which it could claim to be finding its feet. Yesterday it started to walk. The direction it is taking is now a little clearer, but not much.

Don't ignore Hague and his Tory party

IT IS easy to jeer. Focus groups worked for a seemingly unelectable Labour Party, so it is little wonder that a debilitated and hated Conservative Party has turned to them as well. Back in the Eighties, when Neil Kinnock still had all his hair, the then opposition came up with "Labour Listens". As it turned out, the only people it ended up listening to were the very Labour Party members whose distance from normality caused the party's decline in the first place. When the Tories start "Listening to Britain" they need to be sure that it is indeed Britain who is speaking, rather than the strange minority who are willing to give up an evening to speak to a Conservative Party official.

So William Hague's task is not to win in 2002, but to put the party in a position to win in 2007. And he has made a solid start. He has transformed the party's constitution, begun to reform Central Office and quietly ditched some of its more unpopular policies. By setting up a commission on reforming the House of Lords, the Leader of the Opposition has shown a readiness to adopt the traditional Conservative response to constitutional reform: outflanking the proponents. Although his public profile is somewhere between nonexistent and derisory, Mr Hague has won plaudits from business people and party workers and regularly beats the Prime Minister in the Commons. Last week he made him look shiftless, incompetent and ill at ease - a pretty impressive performance. The Government's contempt for the Commons has led many commentators to write off Parliament as well, but they are too hasty. If he carries on shining in the Commons, Mr Hague will not only undermine the Prime Minister; he will also - almost more important - give his demoralised party some confidence.

The new Shadow Cabinet looks promising. Francis Maude has both teeth and brains, while his lacklustre predecessor as shadow Chancellor, Peter Lilley, is far more suited to overseeing the party's policy review. David Willetts is more than capable of giving David Blunkett a hard time, and Liam Fox provides some glamour. And by putting some of the more talented of the 1997 intake - such as Dazian Green and Theresa May - straight on to the Front Bench, with the likes of Andrew Tyrie in reserve as licensed free thinkers, Mr Hague is making best use of the talents available, though the Tories cannot afford to waste a talent such as Ken Clarke. William Hague may be a figure of fun today. But two years ago Mr Blair was nicknamed "Bambi". The Tories' problems need more than a cocked ear, but they should certainly not be written off.

Can Britain revive the Victorian spirit of pride in public service?

"THE JULY measures" hang like a curse over Labour public spending plans. No, not these July measures, or at least not yet; rather the fact that when Labour was in office in the Sixties and Seventies its public spending plans were periodically devastated by a July financial crisis.

The government would announce an increase in public spending to be paid for by the electorate was assured, by improved economic growth. Everyone would cheer. Then, a couple of years down the line, growth would not be quite as good as forecast and sterling would be hit by a bout of speculation. This usually came in July because, it seemed, dealers wanted to square their books before they went off on holiday. The government would respond with a crisis package of cuts in public spending - the infamous July measures.

There were several such packages, the most extreme of which came in 1966 when the National Plan was jettisoned, and in 1976 when the cuts were too timid to satisfy the markets and the country had to go cap-in-hand to the IMF later that autumn, introducing yet further cuts.

So the immediate question that needs to be answered is: is Gordon Brown slipping into the mould of former Labour chancellors?

There is a second and wider question. Those cuts of 1976 marked the high point of public spending in the UK. Since that peak of nearly 48 per cent of GDP the long-term trend of public spending has been down. The long and often painful process of downsizing the public sector started under a Labour government. More recently other countries have started also cutting the

proportion of GDP that passes through the tax and social security net, gradually passing more and more activities back to the private sector. So the question is whether, under these new plans, Labour is simply trying to reverse the process by piling in more money where this seems to be needed. Or whether it is trying to lift the performance of public services so that confidence is rebuilt and a further shift to the private sector can be avoided.

First, is this July expansion a prelude to July cuts? It is tough to say it, but I fear the chances that the Government will be able to sustain these spending plans are no better than events.

You have to assume that the plans themselves will indeed stick: that there will be no cost overruns on the "investment" side and that there will be no overruns on the wages front. These are extremely hairy assumptions given what has happened to big spending projects in the past and the extent to which public sector wages have been held down. Of course it is possible that the various projects will come in on cost; it is possible that the clamp on wages can be maintained. But things have to turn out towards the better end of the likely range.

Now ask about the revenue side. The assumptions here look equally hairy. Take growth: after a slowdown this year growth has to climb back to 2.25 per cent through the early years of the next century. If growth is below that, then revenues will be lower. So if there is a post-millennial recession you can forget the whole thing. If there are more than about 18 months of below-trend growth there will be tremendous

pressure on public finances. Either borrowing will have to rise, which will push the Government's claims for fiscal probity out of the window, or taxes will have to go up; or these spending plans will have to be cut.

The Government's run of luck may continue. Trouble is, it is just when you need a bit of luck that things are liable to go pear-shaped.

At least we will know the answer by the next election. On the bigger question, whether by spending more money you can really lift the public sector's game, the outcome will not be clear for a decade or more. An electorate can choose more or less any size of public sector it wants provided it is prepared to pay the taxes, but in practice the proportion seems to range from between one-third and two-thirds. In Sweden it is more than 60 per cent (and was over 70 per cent in 1993); in the US it is 32 per cent. We are in the middle of the

pack at 40 per cent. Does Gordon Brown's "money for modernisation" proposal mean that we can hold it there, or will the long-term trend established in Britain since 1976 (and overall in the industrial world since 1993) prove too strong?

The answer lies in the hands of the people who manage the health care and education industries. There is little dispute that modern societies both want and need to spend a higher proportion of their income on health and education. In that sense the Chancellor's priorities match those of all developed countries. It was fascinating to hear yesterday his repeated use of words such as "modernisation", "targets" and "reform". You can turn the words on their heads and point out that this was recognising the way in which these great state industries had failed sufficiently to modernise, set targets or reform themselves. They were, it was implied, still producer-driven organisations churning out the service they thought was appropriate, rather than responding to what their consumers demanded.

Up to now these industries have had a convenient excuse: they were starved of cash by a hostile government. I saw a notice at a London Tube station a few months ago saying that it had suspended its escalator refurbishment programme because it had run out of cash. No private sector organisation would dare bleed to its customers that it had no money to improve its service. But in the public sector this was not just unacceptable: it was thought helpful to its case for more taxpayers' money. "We know we are lousy, but it's not our fault."

Gordon Brown's clear message is that this sort of whingeing will no longer be acceptable. The cash is there - or at least some extra cash is there. In return these state industries have to change their mind-set: the leopards have to change their spots.

If they do, then the British public sector can be preserved in pretty much its present share and size. Labour, having started the downsizing of the public sector, will have stabilised the process. Something of the Victorian sense of public service embedded in most of us will be revived and re-created. But it will be difficult because there is not that much more money, expectations are high, and the demands of the customers will continue to rise.

If they do not, then they will gradually find their relations sour with both Government and more important, their customers. It is perfectly possible to ensure a high quality service and reasonable access for disadvantaged people without the service itself being provided by a state industry. Other countries will continue to experiment with innovative ways of providing ever better health and education services, and of guaranteeing wider access to these.

It is a big bet that Gordon Brown is making. If the electorate finds that public sector has as a result of this spending programme radically lifted its game, then the Government gets much of the credit. If on the other hand the improvements are not generally apparent, or if the spending plans are blown off course - that was the phrase used to excuse the July measures - you know who gets the blame.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"People who do not like food are uninteresting. People who live on a lettuce leaf are too light-headed for conversation." Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, soprano

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"You have not converted a man because you have silenced him." Lord Morley, British politician and writer

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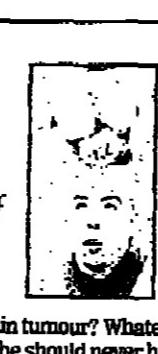
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ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Reaction to Ronaldo's lack of form in the World Cup final

now... they'll give him time to recover properly. Because if they don't they'll lose him." La Repubblica, Italy

"WHY DID Ronaldo have convulsions?" Was it stress? Previously undiagnosed epilepsy? Good luck charms go. Perhaps



breathing are accelerated, dilated pupils, tremors in the hands, legs, lips and tongue, and then afterwards feeling like a flat battery. After a convulsion, the body aches, the head aches. you feel sleepy, your central nervous system is affected and motor co-ordination impaired which is terrible for an athlete." O Globo, Brazil

FROM THE moment the defending world champions stepped on to the pitch they looked as if they really didn't want to be there.... Brazil proved my suspicion that they

really are a one-man team because without a fit Ronaldo they never even looked like scoring when the hosts were down to 10 men." Times of India

RONALDO WAS a virtual passenger in the most important game of his career, and Brazil never looked capable of performing without him. Mario Zagallo would later concede that the uncertainty surrounding Ronaldo had not only disrupted his team but drained their confidence as well. Sydney Morning Herald

"IN BRAZIL'S worst World Cup final defeat ever, Ronaldo was not Ronaldo. He was just a scared 21-year-old kid. The official explanations for Ronaldo's off-day ranged from apparent lies to the ridiculous. The pre-match medical attributed it to his ankle. The France 98 information system blamed his calf. But all week in practice, Ronaldo had been complaining about his knee. After the match the Brazil team doctor said the star had had an upset stomach. Or was it just a third-degree case of sweaty palms?" Los Angeles Times

JULY 15 1998

PANDORA

"WE ARE in touch and in tune with the new Government, but more importantly we are in touch and in tune with the times." So goes the sales brochure for Lawson Lucas Mendelsohn, one of the lobbying firms at the heart of the "cronygate" controversy. Pandora suggests that the last phrase could just as easily have read "but more importantly we are in touch and in tune with *The Times*". And even *The Sun!* Yes, one of LLM's major clients is none other than Rupert Murdoch's News International.

When Pandora rang LLM to discuss this, it was stonewall time, but a list of LLM's clients includes News International, along with the Audit Commission, the Local Government Association, the National House Building Council and major corporations such as Tesco, Ladbrokes and Anglian Water. There are many reasons why News International might choose an "in-touch" and "in-tune" lobbying firm. Most recently, for example, there was the Predatory Pricing amendment to the Competition Bill. The Government ultimately voted that down in the committee stage. Good work lads.

TROUBLE IS brewing at the RAC. Pandora has learned that one of the handful of "lady executive members" is contemplating a lawsuit to force the RAC to allow women to share in the £450m flotation windfall that the 12,000 male club members expect to receive (£35,000 apiece) when the roadside services division is sold off. It seems that current female members, some of whom pay the same dues as male members, are not considered to have "full memberships".

Although a High Court judge recently upheld this interpretation, some legal experts believe that the women have a strong case for sharing in the booty, or at least for gaining a rebate on their membership fees. After all, the RAC decided last November to allow female members to become "full members" and to enjoy the widest possible benefits of the club.

IT SEEMS that two New Labour ministers, both strongly mooted as potential candidates for London's mayor, can only demonstrate the contempt for rucksack abuse. First Glenda Jackson,

Minister for London Transport, and now Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, have thumbed their noses at the Anti-Rucksack On The Tube Campaign. Like Glenda, Tony refused to speak to us directly. Instead a spokeswoman at the Culture Media & Sport press office told Pandora, "He [Banks] said that he would call you back if he wanted to participate. He obviously hasn't." Glenda and Tony, obviously you have forgotten something. We elected you "to participate" in exactly these kind of pernicious social problems that you seem to be avoiding, not to hide behind your PR flacks while you chafe over your own dreary prospects in the coming reshuffle.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE the cunning of Britain's rucksack louts. As the pressure from our campaign begins to be felt on the capital's Underground system, we have heard reports of selfish cabs wearing just one shoulder strap attached, thus turning their rucksacks into bogus shoulder-bags. This dodge will not wash! Amongst the deluge of mail received in the past 10 days, many readers have urged us to broaden the crusade in order to include shoulder-bags. The campaign agrees. Rucksacks can easily pose as shoulder-bags, and both ought to be hand-carried in crowded public spaces instead of being used as battering-rams. While this year's campaign remains unchanged, we will operate under the aegis of a new organisation: Citizens Concerned With Worn Luggage (CCWWL). Plans for a National Rucksack Awareness Day are progressing apace.

THE BLAIRS' summer holiday is approaching and political hacks everywhere are watching to see just how the PM slips out of what appears to be a Gordian knot. Will he, Cherie and the kids (below) return for the third year in a row to Tuscany to relax in the Paymaster General Geoffrey Robertson's splendid villa? If so, Blair opens himself to charges of "consorting with his old crony Robertson". On the other hand, if the Blairs choose to holiday somewhere in, say, Umbria, the headlines will surely read "Blair dumps Robertson".

Is Drumcree the Orangemen's Alamo?



DAVID
MCKITTRICK
A menacing weapon has been removed from the extremist loyalist armoury

THE PATHETIC scenes at yesterday's funerals of the three Quinn boys in Rasharkin, County Antrim, would have melted the heart of a stone. Ballymoney joins the long, sad litany of places visited by death, where lives are taken and those of the survivors ruined. Nothing can bring the boys back, but it is possible to believe that their deaths will, unlike most deaths, help to break down divisions.

Drumcree '98 was awful in terms of death and damage to Northern Ireland's community relations, economy and image. But it was also a defeat for the forces of reaction, for those elements who oppose the Good Friday agreement and the whole idea of a new partnership coalition aimed at bringing the two communities together.

This year's Drumcree had a double purpose. The Portadown Orangemen, for whom the adjective "single-minded" might have been coined, repeated their familiar clockwork Orange act, saying they would stay at Drumcree "for as long as it takes" to get down the Garvagh Road.

Others on the loyalist side

supported them, as per usual, but this time they had the ulterior motive of undermining the new settlement. The Rev Ian Paisley and his allies had lost in the Good Friday referendum and lost again, if only by a narrow margin, in the assembly elections. But they figured they had a couple more cards to play.

One, which is at the advanced planning stage, is the creation of a

loyalist rejectionist front combining the Paisleyites, the Orange Order, Robert McCartney's UK Unionists and those people in David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party who are unhappy about his political direction.

Trimble was supposed to act as a cement to bring these elements together. It was also supposed to isolate and weaken David Trimble.

Much of his discomfiture arose from the fact that Unionist opinion at first stayed eerily quiet about the controversy, waiting to see which way the wind was blowing.

But, by the end of the week, a Protestant consensus seemed to be emerging that Drumcree had got out of hand, with the widespread violence making Belfast a ghost town in the evenings. At Drumcree, the Orangemen could not hold back what they called "the blue bags" - contingents of belligerent drunks who brought along their Dutch courage in plastic bags.

The terrible denouement of the children's deaths has dealt a severe blow to the rejectionist Unionists, for in the public mind there is a clear linkage between Drumcree and the No campaigners. As a result, David

like Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, were of obstinate Ulster stock.

As their support dwindles away, as it seems bound to, we may see the emergence of a new formula that will stand a chance of doing away with the annual marching controversies. The disaster of Drumcree '98 may lead some opponents of dialogue to conclude that it is the only way.

Drumcree '98 began as an attempt to re-establish the old pattern of one community being able, through force of numbers, to impose its will on another. It finished as a stark example of the dangers of that approach, showing what can happen when men try to overwhelm the politics of consensus with the politics of the street.

The battle between the two elements of Unionism, old-style and new-style, is by no means over, but Drumcree '98 has, in the last analysis, weakened the hands of the rejectionists. It has shown the dangers of anarchy and the importance of the rule of law. The pity of it is that these lessons had to be learned the hard way, and that the young lives of the Quinn boys were lost in the process.

Be brave, Tony, and kick out the Cabinet sycophants



KEN
LIVINGSTONE
It is the cronies and incompetent ministers whose mistakes come back to haunt you

ALASTAIR CAMPBELL'S comment that the impending Cabinet reshuffle was junk food for journalists is not surprising given the endless speculation based on unattributable rumour. The news that the Prime Minister had asked civil servants to evaluate the competence of junior ministers has led to even more despair and angst in the lower ranks of Her Majesty's Government.

Uniquely in British political history, Tony Blair's first reshuffle was being speculated about even before he had won the General Election. No sooner had Blair announced that all the members of his Shadow Cabinet would be appointed to his full cabinet than the speculation began about how short a time some would be allowed to serve.

Even in opposition there was massive tension. There was never any doubt that if Labour MPs had been allowed to elect people to specified posts, then either Robin Cook or John Prescott would have been able to beat Gordon Brown for the post of Shadow Chancellor.

Matters were made worse in July 1996 when super-loyalists started to propose that Labour MPs should give up their right to elect the Shadow Cabinet. This proposal stirred up so much suspicion that it had to be dropped. Instead, Labour MPs who had been planning to seek election to the Shadow Cabinet were strong armed and intimidated and even bribed into withdrawing from the contest. In the end, it was only a handful of contestants from the Socialist Campaign Group who hopefully challenged the incumbents.

Even before Labour took office, anonymous press briefings identified Michael Meacher, Gavin Strang and Frank Dobson as candidates for early retirement in government. In truth, of course, few people have created such a favourable impression

as Frank Dobson as he has battled to prise resources for the NHS out of Gordon Brown's puritan grip.

Not surprisingly, most of the fevered speculation has been on the future of Peter Mandelson. Gordon Brown's allies have waged a powerful campaign to try to force Tony Blair into giving Peter Mandelson a ministry to run, maybe Culture or Trade and Industry. The rival camp, claiming to be acting on behalf of the Prime Minister, are demanding that the blessed Peter be given David Clark's job (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) in the hope that he would then transform it into a massive power base from which to enforce the Leader's will in every institution and corner of the realm.

The one thing on which all Labour MPs are agreed is that the speculation has been nothing other than destabilising, while ensuring that acres of newsprint are devoted to the personalities rather than the policies of the Government.

I faced similar problems in the days of the old Labour GLC. Before

I became leader, the practice was that Labour councillors elected four of their number to meet with the leader and chief whip, and after an hour or two of back-stabbing in private, a total package would be presented to the Labour Group.

The only consistent feature of this process was that everybody who was elected to the leader's advisory committee was able to conclude after rigorous analysis that they themselves were best qualified to occupy the most important committee chairs. For those not lucky enough to be elected to the Leader's advisory committee, the only sure way to guarantee a position was to follow that sound underlying principle of the British constitution - brown-nosing the leader.

I had no doubt that the collective judgement of the GLC Labour Group would be a better mechanism to evaluate the relative merits of my colleagues. Also, I had no desire to spend endless hours of my time itinerating to sycophantic drives. In the run up to the GLC election, therefore, I persuaded the Labour group to change its rules so that each post in the administration would be determined by a secret ballot of all Labour councillors.

The new system soon settled down and the Labour group consistently voted for competence rather than cronyism. I have no doubt that if Tony Blair had the confidence to give up his powers to appoint the Cabinet and pass the decision making to the Parliamentary Labour Party, he would find himself ended up with a more competent and effective government.

Any leader is bound to be tempted to guarantee a majority of loyalists in their Cabinet. The temptation to hang on to loyal retainers who are almost irresistible. The trouble is it's your cronies and incompetent



Robin Cook, next Chancellor?



Gordon Brown of the FO?

cabinet members who will guarantee a succession of damaging rows in parliament as their mistakes come back to haunt you.

Although the majority of the British public would not reform eminently sensible, it is unlikely Tony Blair is going to give up any of his powers of patronage. Every single one of Blair's changes to the rules of the Labour Party and the Parliamentary Labour Party have concentrated power around the core of sycophants that surrounds him. It is the same instinct to centralise power which may very well lead him to appoint Peter Mandelson to a new cabinet role of super-enforcer, the decision guaranteed to cause him endless grief in the long term, and possibly in the short term.

Imagine how much better it would be for Tony Blair if he actually plucked up courage and gave all us power-less backbench MPs a real bit of influence over the direction of the Government. In a secret ballot of Labour MPs, Gordon Brown would be replaced in the Treasury by Robin Cook who is eminently better qualified, with his firmer grasp of economic forces to minimise the impact of the recession that Gordon has made almost inevitable. With his passionate commitment to Europe, Gordon Brown would slot easily into the Foreign Office. Once the Irish peace process has been secured there is no doubt that Labour MPs would elevate Mo Mowlam to the front rank of Labour ministers.

Labour's golden boys, Alan Milburn and Stephen Byers, would know they had been promoted to the Cabinet on their ability rather than simply their loyalty and usefulness to the leader. And as for the Cabinet casualties, their whinging and complaining would be irrelevant given that their sackings would have been based on the brutal assessment of 420 colleagues rather than the whim of the leader.

But most attractive of all would be the fact that the spin doctors would almost go out of business, given that predicting the decisions of the Parliamentary Labour Party would be much more difficult than reporting the outpourings of some half-cut

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IND485

The truth about towns and cities

IN THE last 12 months, the debate about where we should live seems to have been dominated by two negative themes - the dual fears of tearing up green fields, and re-creating Victorian slums. Myth has been built on myth. Let me debunk these.

Myth one: People are still moving out of our cities in droves. Between 1981 and 1991, a number of our major cities grew in population: eg Greater London, Nottingham and Leicester. Of those that lost population, only Liverpool and Sheffield suffered losses of more than 5 per cent. But what is more important is that if you look at numbers of households rather than population, every one of our major cities showed an increase.

Myth two: Most of the new households that will form over the next decade or so, are going to be single households and they will want to live in a lively urban environment. I am sorry, but the research suggests not. Yes, you may capture the 18-30 young professionals. But the biggest increasing group of single households is the 35-55 year-olds who desire larger prop-

erties, with gardens, off-street parking and all the other status symbols associated with successful middle age.

The fact that they no longer have a partner and their children have left home does not mean that they will easily be persuaded to downsize.

Myth three: High density means a return to high rise, and that means unacceptable living standards. Many Sixties high-rise developments were constructed at a far lower density than the traditional street patterns that preceded them.

The reason is that, with the best of intentions, the architects and planners placed the blocks within areas of paraffin. With the rapid increase in car ownership, the green parks became car parks, and the rest, as they say, is history. But the densities are often not as high as people perceive.

One more myth: Brown-field land is running out. In truth, we will not know until the Deputy Prime Minister's team has constructed the National Land Use Database. But the evidence suggests that this assertion is wrong. The 1993 Derelict Land Survey reported that there were 35,000 hectares

of derelict land that is worthy of reclamation.

The task which my group has been given is complex and diverse. The solutions for the metropolitan city are unlikely to be replicable in the market town. What may be achievable on a vacant coalfield site will be heavily constrained in a built-up area.

By now you may be questioning my wisdom in agreeing to chair the task force. Never-

theless, what I would hope to give you is some idea of how we are going to focus our efforts.

First, it is clear to me that to make sense of the complexities of the English urban pattern we must adopt a truly global perspective.

As I travel around the world, the same spectre looms - environmental degradation, gridlock, increased privatisation of public space, social segregation, low standards of urban design and poor quality of life. Some cities - Los Angeles, Mexico City, and Santiago - have already lost the battle.

Second, we capitulated to market economics. I don't make this necessarily as a political statement. I am talking only about the economics of land use. But in this respect the product of *laissez-faire* planning is any town. Everywhere. Everywhere begins to look like everywhere else. What purports to be offering freedom and choice offers no such thing.

There is, however, a different approach - dare I say a "third way". The increased demand for new housing has focused our minds. The redevelopment of large areas of recycled urban land in English

towns and cities provides a significant opportunity to get things right. We must, however, avoid the mistakes of the Sixties and Seventies by working with the inhabitants of our future urban communities. We must respond to the need to create new housing without creating ghettos of social exclusion.

The question is: how can we accommodate the maximum amount of development within already developed areas, while simultaneously improving the quality of life?

The second part of my equation is social well-being. I am not a zealot. I recognise that we could provide a physical Utopia in our towns and cities and still fail to achieve sustainable urban communities.

For the task force, this gives us a problem. On the one hand we have to limit our remit to manage our task. On the other, if we present our recommendations into a policy vacuum we achieve nothing.

This Government has given us a clear model of regional development. We must help to translate that into practical solutions.



PODIUM

LORD RODGERS
From a speech by the Chairman of the Urban Task Force to the Urban Villages Forum Conference



Who cares if he's the real father?



YVONNE ROBERTS

Let us view DNA testing as the foundation stone of a society that truly values its young

ON MONDAY, yet another strike was announced in that Nineties Klondike known as genetic commerce. It was revealed that for £300, a do-it-yourself DNA paternity testing kit can be acquired. A cotton wool bud is used to collect cells from inside a child's cheek - with or without the mother's approval - while another swab is taken from the father. Both are dispatched to the company, the DNA Testing Agency. A man will then have an expensive lesson in the cost of a suspicious mind - or the family tree will suddenly find itself with a branch lopped off, and much else besides may become uprooted.

Panic has been the instant reaction to this increase in knowledge about the ties that bind - especially from those who toil in the field of ethics. David Hinchcliffe, chairman of the House of Commons Health Select Committee, called for the tests to be stopped, suggesting "the likely consequences are damaged and destroyed relationships." And Sir Colin Campbell, chairman of the Human Genetics Advisory Committee, voiced key concerns. Whose permission should be sought? Once the information is received, is the father under an obligation to tell anyone - and if so, whom? But then, on Radio 4's *Today* programme, he added: "This seems to be a topic without any of the moral context in which it should be approached." As if family life has ever been that tidy.

A pattern is beginning to emerge in the responses to each fresh corner turned in genetics. The first is to act as if many of the dilemmas thrown up have never been encountered before in the span of human history. The second is to suggest a ban. A more realistic approach is go with the flow, strongly steered by the certainty that in the tangle that family ties often become, the "perfect" solution (which also poses the question perfect for whom?) is rarely achievable. If the aim is the best interests of the child, then, in that "moral context", the fewer the family secrets, the healthier the child.

So, let us take a couple of steps back, before the £300 cheque is dispatched, and accept that for centuries the suspicion of a cuckoo in the nest has been a haunting possibility for husbands. The key question, as far as children's welfare is concerned, is: how have they reacted?

Aristocratic families have often absorbed children from extramarital liaisons into the weave of their family history. Fifty years ago, when divorce was at its lowest, a cuckoo in the marital home meant that a wife had cheated; but some husbands never found out. In the Seventies, one study accidentally discovered that up to 30 per cent of a group of some 250 women had a child who could not have been the offspring of their putative father.

For others, the evidence has been obvious, when prolonged absence on war duty has made paternity impossible. In her study *Imagining Home, Gender, Race and National Identity 1945-64*, Wendy Webster, cites one, heart-breaking case.

A newly-married woman was told her husband was missing, believed killed. She had an affair and conceived a boy. The missing husband returned and told his wife she had to choose between them. The boy was adopted, and a year later the husband left. Conversely, Mass

Observation, in which thousands of women recorded their way of lives, also details how some men chose to turn a blind eye to an offspring not of their mould.

In short, if a man is to react well or with hostility, he will do so with or without scientific backing. Plenty of biological children, for instance, have been subjected to abuse as a result of a father's unfounded suspicion that his son or daughter is not his "possession". In that particular situation, DNA paternity testing can only ease a child's trial - if that is, a man is adult enough to accept the truth.

It seems contradictory that at a time in which biological fatherhood is constantly under discussion - for instance, the rights of unmarried fathers are now established - a ban should be sought on a method which, if you are an optimist, could be viewed as a way of strengthening paternal ties.

Fans of *The Archers* will know that the appalling Kate has just given birth to a child which the upstanding Roy is convinced is his. Kate would no doubt object to a non-biodegradable swab being inserted

into her child's mouth, but in years to come, will her newborn daughter thank her for refusing to name her dad? (Look, for example, at Paula Yates's distress at discovering that Jess Yates was not her biological father.) And while it may be in a mother's interest to eliminate from her life a man for whom she has no affection, that is fair on her offspring?

The 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that a child has a right to know the identity of both parents and to maintain contact. So, why not move a step further? Why not conduct a DNA paternity test on each putative father? (Reluctant dads will present a problem.) A parental contract could then be signed, by both parents, to pledge care and support throughout that child's life.

Let us view DNA testing not as a potential saboteur of "respectable" suburban life - but the foundation stone of a society that truly values the stability of its young.

David Hinchcliffe MP has preferred instead to focus on the more negative aspects of the DIY DNA test. Last week, the Child Support Agency belatedly announced that it

was simplifying its financial demands on non-residential parents - Mr Hinchcliffe believes that some men will employ the DNA test to cancel their obligations totally.

Two million children receive no contribution from the absent parent. If only a fraction of these parents fork out £300 for the kit, the company which devised it has truly struck gold. On the other hand, if some men subsequently discover they are not the biological parent, and if they have had no long-term relationship with the child, then why should they pay the dues of another man?

Better still, perhaps this aggrieved cohort can help to put pressure on the true fathers so that they do remain positively entwined in their children's lives. (Fears about being nubbed for years for paternal dues as the result of a one-night stand can easily be allayed: wear a condom.)

Of course, it is not only fathers who have an instinct about a son or a daughter. Biographies are littered with histories of children who grew up feeling "different", only to discover (as did the Body Shop's Anita Roddick) that an "uncle" is the bi-

ological father. Family truths can sometimes cause grievous damage but arguably, deception, omissions and falsehoods hurt far more.

Hopefully, once this initial DNA panic has abated, perhaps the present debate on fatherhood, which has so far placed such a high premium on blood ties, may become more rooted in reality. One in 65 children in Britain will experience divorce; a high proportion will move into stepfamilies. Bad news and stepfathers appear to go together like Dartby and Joan but, quietly and without fuss, many stepfamilies have found ways to make it work well enough. What matters as much as genes are the quality of a relationship and the honesty on which it is based.

The writer Carole Gebler, for instance, has a stepdaughter, India. When she was five, he moved in with her mother. "My first task as a stepfather," he says, "Was always to make her feel included and never to leave her out."

It's a lesson which some biological parents - with or without the help of a DNA test - are never quite grown-up enough to grasp.



Joanne O'Brien/Format

Fatherhood is about more than just biology - the quality and honesty of the relationship matter as much as genes

A lifetime spent in cold comfort

"NEVER INTERFERE in a quarrel between queers: they have the strength of men and the courage of women." This nugget of advice comes courtesy of Stella Gibbons's no-good brother, a man she had to bail out on a number of occasions, and who proved himself to be a worthy member of the Gibbons family.

If you want to know the inspiration for the barking mad Starkadders of *Cold Comfort Farm*, the only one of Stella Gibbons's books now widely read, a quick glance round the family portraits tells you all you need to know. Grandfather Gibbons looked like a goat, and he also possessed the appetite of one. He was not above taking a lung at his sons' women, and extracts from his self-pitying diary, which are included in this book, make for extraordinary reading. Stella's father was no better. A doctor who was greatly admired by his patients, he was violent and, just like his old dad, sexually rampant. The 11-year-old Stella had to coax him out of committing suicide and, even at that tender age, she realised that he was causing the misery that he was causing for those around him.

Stella thought that a list should have been pinned up in the hall so you knew whose names could be uttered in the warring family. Writing her comic classic was a way for Stella to exorcise the demons of her childhood. The whole boiling mess of the family drama had a comic reincarnation in the crazed Starkadders.

Educated at first by governesses, who left the house in tears or high indignation, depending on how they had taken Dr Gibbons's advances, Stella went on to the North London Collegiate School and then took a two-year course in journalism. She got a job at a news agency but carried on living at home to give her mother some support against the cruelty of her father. Her mother was soon to die of cere-



WEDNESDAY BOOK

OUT OF THE WOODSHED:
THE LIFE OF STELLA GIBBONS
BY REGGIE OLIVER, BLOOMSBURY, £25

bral thrombosis; the funeral service was interrupted by Dr Gibbons shouting: "Oh, she was a bitch! She never cooked properly. What I had to put up with!" Six months later, he too was dead. With both of the parents gone, Stella and her two brothers went off to share a cottage in Hampstead.

It was, initially, a happy period. Stella was writing and Hampstead, at the time, was still something of a rural idyll, possessing a good deal of Bohemian charm. But the Gibbons genes outlasted soon enough. The brothers took to drinking heavily and bringing some very dodgy women back to the house. There were wild parties and what might have been a louche social life, but Stella's child-

hood would not let go of her. Battle-scarred from the scenes of her early years, she craved order - like Flora Post, *Cold Comfort's* organising heroine. She earned the money, ran the house and cleaned up the messes of her two brothers.

At worst things were a good deal better. She was rising in the world of journalism, despite having been sacked from her agency job for miscalculating the rate of the franc against the dollar. Her poems were getting published (*Virginia Woolf* was greatly impressed by them) and so were her short stories. Then came *Cold Comfort Farm* - her brilliant swipe at all those awful, earthy novels that were so popular during the

Twenties - and she had fame and fortune. A year later she also had a husband, the singer and actor, Alan Webb. It is at this point that Stella Gibbons somehow drifts out of her nephew's biography. She longed to be ordinary and Reggie Oliver colludes with her wish, tidying away her husband's affairs and glossing over her strained relationship with her only child, Laura. Unwilling to delve into her private life, Oliver makes only a vague attempt to outline her public one. She travelled a bit: she met friends for tea in Highgate and made occasional sallies into the literary world. Oliver pads out the rest of his biography with a whistle-stop tour of the plots of Stella's later work. But seeing that her literary career went into a considerable decline after *Cold Comfort Farm*, this probably was not a good game plan.

As a widow, Stella Gibbons ran a literary salon on the first Saturday of

every month. John Braine, "with one or two female acolytes", was a regular attendee, as well as anyone young, interesting and good-looking who had caught Stella's eye. You would hope that Reggie, who himself has written a few plays (including the engrossing *Put Some Clothes On, Clarissa!*), would have breathed a little life into these events. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

The no-good brother fades from the book quite early, under a financial cloud. Reggie Oliver moves through the rest, tidying things away in the woodshed. You can sympathise. It's not easy to write frankly about your own relations and still stay civil round the Christmas turkey ("Ay, would it were a vulture, 'were more fitting").

On matters literary, Oliver writes: "there is a recurrent if not invariable critical prejudice as favour of a little dullness". He should be so lucky.

SUSAN JEFFREYS

WEDNESDAY POEM

THE STRANGER
BY SEMEDZIN MEHMEDINOVIC, TRANSLATED BY
KATHLEEN JAMIE AND ANTONELA GLAVINIC

One day, I too will set off alone
into the darkness of a grave
on Afifakov, or some other
city hill, here
where I once knew everyone.
Now, I recognise no one at all,

except two or three -
and only at night, alone
from the past, do I look out
at the darkness of the city
from someone else's flat,
I, the stranger, the stranger.

This is our final selection from Chris Agee's anthology of contemporary poetry from Bosnia, 'Scar on the Stone' (Bloodaxe, £8.95)



Joanna Lumley in a film version of "Cold Comfort Farm"

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turn to but you.
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SAFARI DAY

Lord Boyd-Carpenter

THROUGHOUT HIS long and distinguished life, John Boyd-Carpenter did everything that came his way, intellectual or physical, with zest and pugnacity, and often with remarkable effect. He also liked everything done at speed, and could be bruisingly brusque with hesitation - however well-founded - or delay. His mind was not a particularly subtle one, but he could use it like a hatchet to hack through the undergrowth of often complicated, and even tortuous political problems. He liked to attack business directly and, for preference, immediately.

Between 1965 and 1970 the Conservatives went through a period of intense intellectual activity which, in many respects, prefigured what it was to undergo under Margaret Thatcher between 1975 and 1979. In 1965 the new Leader, Edward Heath, decreed that every single aspect of policy should be re-examined in great detail, and with radical intentions.

The then rather large Conservative Research Department contained a great many young officers who responded with enthusiasm to the possibility this offered them of influencing new policy. A number of politicians were only too eager to benefit from the energies and initiatives of the youngsters in what virtually amounted to a shadow Civil Service. One of the foremost of these politicians was John Boyd-Carpenter; though by then in his late fifties, he had the energy of youth, and he invariably responded with openness and generosity to often merely sketched ideas.

One anecdote will, I hope, illustrate how Boyd-Carpenter went about his work. The Conservative Party came to power in 1970 in possession of a highly complex set of plans for the reform of the National Health Service and the social security system, responsibility for both of these aspects of the welfare state then under the hand of a single minister.

Boyd-Carpenter - rightly as it turned out - suspected the resolution of the new Secretary of State, Sir Keith Joseph. Boyd-Carpenter decided to call on Joseph. He requested back-up from the Conservative Research Department and the late Rosemary Marten, Chris Patten, and myself were detailed to accompany him to the DSS headquarters, then at Elephant and Castle. He said he would pick us up at our office in Old Queen Street.

He arrived so comfortably ahead of time that we assumed he required a preliminary briefing, after which we would take a taxi to the department. Not so. We would, he announced, walk to our destination, "to clear our heads". Some time later the thoroughly refreshed and totally clear-headed portly backbencher arrived at Elephant and Castle with three puffed-out youngsters trailing in his wake. He then put Joseph and his senior civil servants through a punishing inquisition, rarely referring to us save on the occasional matter of detail. I thought then - and I think now - that the Heath government would have fared better had Boyd-Carpenter, that most capable and pugnacious of men, been

inserted as Secretary of State rather than the indecisive Joseph.

Boyd-Carpenter was born in 1908, the son of an MP, and political talk filled his household. He was educated at Stowe and Balliol. He left Oxford with a good degree in History, and a Diploma in Economics. He decided to read for the Bar, and in the process of his legal development collected the Harmsworth Law Scholarship and the Council of Legal Education's Prize for Constitutional Law.

In 1937 he married a soldier's daughter, Margaret Hall, whose father was a Colonel in the Scots Guards, which regiment he joined in 1940, rising, in the course of the war, to the rank of Major in 1943.

Hostilities being over he entered - as he had always planned to - politics, holding the safe Tory seat of Kingston in the general election debate of 1945. He held that seat

Indian Summer (1961) - that the generally under-estimated 1961 government was a highly effective one.

With the exception of the brief period of 1954 to 1955, when he was Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, Boyd-Carpenter was, at various times, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and Chief Secretary as well as Paymaster-General. From 1955 to 1962, however, he was Minister of Pensions and National Insurance, while in opposition from 1964 he was his party's chief spokesman on housing and Chairman of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee.

The significant thing to record about his ministerial career is the fact that, in each post in which he served he found a mess, and began a sorting out of the mess before he was moved on. For example, when he went to the Ministry of Transport, he found that he had two Permanent Under-Secretaries under him. One was quite uninterested in shipping (one of the new minister's responsibilities) and another uninterested in aviation. The reason, of course, for this dilution of concern and effort was that these two men had, hitherto, been responsible for different departments, and were concerned jealously to guard their old territories.

Boyd-Carpenter, in his usual decisive manner, sorted out differences, integrated the disparate elements and produced the first comprehensive system for administering transport policy which the country had seen. He was, for example, who began the creation of the British motorway system. Although today, in some circles, it is fashionable to decry that system as environmentally unfriendly, the sober truth of the matter is that, without Boyd-Carpenter's often patient - but, also, often peremptory - ground-work, British industry, with the vastly increasing demand for relatively efficient methods of transferring goods from one place to another, would have seized up.

Every government learns rapidly how difficult it is to reconcile the expensive dreams and hopes of the welfare state with the stringent economic requirements of the Treasury. Correspondingly, the burden of negotiation with spending departments places an enormous burden on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, his job being almost as impossibly burdensome as that of the Prime Minister. Because of his awareness of this serious difficulty, Harold Macmillan decided, in 1962, to bring Boyd-Carpenter - into the Cabinet. Various of Macmillan's successors have tried to reverse this dispensation, and have always returned to it. One of the reasons for the change was that it had been found that departmental ministers would resist abjurations from a junior minister on matters of financial prudence, and aped over his head to the Chancellor.

Once Boyd-Carpenter was in the Cabinet, the Prime Minister decreed that he should be responsible for the control of public expenditure while the Chancellor, Reginald Maudling, took care of what, nowadays, we call macro-economic policy, including taxation and economic foreign relations.

His mind was not a particularly subtle one, but he could use it like a hatchet to hack through the undergrowth of complicated political problems

until he was elevated to the peerage in 1972.

Though he never quite reached the very front rank in politics - he was, perhaps, too abrasive a character for that - Boyd-Carpenter was a formidable minister, respected, and perhaps even feared, by his civil servants.

The interesting thing about his ministerial career - and what made him invaluable in the opposition years of 1964 to 1970, and again between 1974 and 1979 - was that it straddled domestic social affairs and economic matters. He was surprised to be appointed, in the 1951 government, by Churchill, to be Financial Secretary to the Treasury, for he had never, hitherto, evinced any particular interest in matters economic. He had just discovered, as he was to record later in his 1980 memoirs *Way of Life*, Churchill's liking for appointing ministers to offices in the work of which they had little or no experience, so that they would bring fresh minds, rather than half-baked ideas, to a new department.

It should be noted, incidentally, that, in *Way of Life*, Boyd-Carpenter refused to recycle well-known stories about Churchill, and the great man's somewhat idiosyncratic method of conducting the business of government. Boyd-Carpenter's book provides invaluable first-hand evidence to support Anthony Seldon's thesis - expressed in his immensely scholarly *Churchill's*



John Boyd-Carpenter, as Minister of Transport, arriving at 10 Downing Street for a cabinet meeting in 1955. Hulton Deutsch

of Conservative Peers as well as Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London for a decade from 1973.

To all these activities he brought his familiar characteristics of incisiveness and tenacity of intellect, as well as his formidably blunt manner of private and public speaking.

Patrick Cosgrave

If it ought to be a crucial part of the role of the House of Commons to hold the executive of the day to account, there was no more assiduous and well informed performer than John Boyd-Carpenter, writes Tam Dalyell. He was one of the great examiners of the administration of the last 40 years.

Of his legendary late-night guerrilla activity against the Attlee government (1945-51), I have no direct knowledge. What I do know is that,

as Richard Crossman's shadow between 1964 and 1966, it really mattered to the Minister of Housing, his Permanent Secretary Dame Evelyn Sharp, and the officials, what Boyd-Carpenter asked, said and thought in that pounding monotone which was his hallmark.

As PPS (Parliamentary Private Secretary) on the Commons bench I could only marvel at how he was immersed in the details of the Protection from Eviction Bill, followed by the Rent Bill, followed by the Housing Subsidy Bill, followed by the Rating Bill, not to mention ad hoc debates such as one of censure on Paddington. And it was, further, an amazing fact that this spokesman found the time to be the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

As a member along with John Biffen, Aidan Crawley, Col Sir Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre, Edward du Cann, Sir Douglas Glover, Jack Mendelson, Charles Morris, Arthur Probert, Samuel Sulkin, Dame Irene Ward and Gerald Wills, I saw how he transformed himself from being a partisan politician to an extremely fair inquisitor.

Under his chairmanship we examined the leading civil servants of the day and his conduct made one proud of the profession of politics. Etched in my memory is his examination in February 1965 of Sir Richard Way, the distinguished and exceedingly able Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Aviation responsible for Concorde and its escalating costs. Even Sir Edmund Compton, the Comptroller and Auditor General who had worked to Harold Wilson and Douglas Houghton when they were chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, told me that Boyd-Carpenter had been an outstanding tour de force.

Believing that, because of his behaviour when Foreign Secretary at Rambouillet over Suez and negotiations with the Israelis, Selwyn Lloyd was not popular to be Speaker of the House of Commons, I was active in the group of Labour Members supporting Boyd-Carpenter to succeed Horace King. We failed. But I hold to the opinion of those of 1971 that Boyd-Carpenter, had he been elected Speaker, would have been a distinguished holder of that office.

John Archibald Boyd-Carpenter, politician: born 2 June 1908; called to the Bar, Middle Temple 1934; MP (Conservative) for Kingston-upon-Thames 1945-72; Financial Secretary to the Treasury 1951-54; Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation 1954-55; PC 1954; Minister of Pensions and National Insurance 1955-62; Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Paymaster-General 1962-64; Chairman, Public Accounts Committee 1964-70; created 1972 Baron Boyd-Carpenter; Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority 1972-77; chairman, Rugby Portland Cement 1976-84; Chairman, Carlton Club 1979-86; Chairman, Association of Conservative Peers 1985-90; President 1991-98; married 1937 Margaret Hall (one son, two daughters); died Crux Eaton, Hampshire 11 July 1998.

Jimmy Driftwood



Driftwood learned to play as a boy on a home-made guitar

WHAT STARTED out as a tool for a history lesson being given by an Arkansas school teacher ended up in the US pop charts for six weeks and provided a near-hit for the British skiffle Lonnie Donegan. The schoolteacher was called James Morris and his song was called "The Battle of New Orleans", a celebration of the last battle of the war of 1812.

It was such a success that he changed his name to Jimmy Driftwood, persuaded the country star Johnny Horton to record the song, and devoted the rest of his life to using music to put American children in touch with their history.

Driftwood's father, Neil Morris, was a traditional performer who had been recorded by America's leading folksong collector Alan Lomax, so it wasn't all surprising that Driftwood took a traditional fiddle tune, "The Eighth of January", as the melody for his "The Battle of New Orleans", the story of the time when the British "began to runnin' / On down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico" (ironically - and ridiculously - when Lonnie Donegan recorded the song and got it to No 2 in the UK charts, the words were changed to "the rebels began to runnin'", presumably to spare the blushes of any military descendants of the British general Sir Edward Pakenham who was licked so decisively in the battle).

Driftwood's grandparents had moved from Tennessee to Arkansas before the Civil War, and it was on a home-made guitar built by his grandfather from a fence rail, an ox yoke and part of a bedstead headboard, that Driftwood first began to play music as a boy. He also learned

fiddle and banjo, and spent much of his time when walking the 14 miles a day to and from school recalling the songs he had learned from members of his family.

Though he graduated from Arkansas State Teachers College and started teaching in the Forties, Driftwood was also performing at re-

gional folk festivals, and was asked in the early Fifties by RCA Victor to put together an album of *Newly Discovered Early American Folk Songs*, which included "The Ballad of New Orleans".

As a result of the Jimmy Horton hit, and Eddy Arnold's similar success with another of his songs,

"Tennessee Stud", Driftwood got a job with the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, and became a popular folk festival performer. He won Grammy awards for both "New Orleans" and "Tennessee Stud", and also for his album *Songs of Billy Yank and Johnny Reb*.

He never lost touch with his roots, however, and certainly didn't get caught up in the Nashville glitter instead devoting much of his energy to spreading awareness of the songs and cultural heritage of the peoples of the Ozark Mountains, setting up the Rackensack Folklore Society, and organising in 1968 the first of a series of Arkansas Folk Festivals.

He also campaigned for the protection of natural resources, notably in a successful campaign against the damming of the Buffalo River in north Arkansas. With money from the Federal Government, he persuaded the Arkansas Commission of Parks, Recreation and Tourism to set up the \$3.4m Ozark Folk Center, not a mile away from his home.

He and his wife Cleda also set up the Driftwood Barn near the family farm, to give him a permanent place to perform at weekends. No entrance fee was charged, but the barn was passed round in traditional folk style. By the time of his death the barn had become an official facility of the University of Central Arkansas.

Karl Dallas
James Corbett Morris (Jimmy Driftwood), singer/songwriter and teacher: born Mountain View, Arkansas 20 June 1907; married Fayetteville, Arkansas 12 July 1928.

Lester King



King in action for the West Indies at Eastbourne, 1963

bloody fielders comin' any closer I'll appeal against the light." King also toured India as the reserve fast bowler in 1966-67 and made his second appearance for West Indies in the draw against England in April 1968 at Georgetown, Guyana, taking 2-79. In a career that spanned only eight years he had a

Test record, in two matches, of nine wickets at an average of 17 and a career record of 142 wickets at 31.

Derek Hodgson

Lester Anthony King, cricketer: born St Catherine Parish, Jamaica 27 February 1939; died Kingston, Jamaica 9 July 1998.

Professor David Ayalon

DAVID AYALON was a leading figure in the field of Arabic studies and of Middle Eastern history.

Born in Haifa in 1914, Ayalon spent his childhood in Rosh Pina, in Galilee. He received his secondary education at the famous Reali School in Haifa, his higher education at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. His PhD thesis was on the Mameluke institution in medieval Egypt. It was a subject that absorbed him for the rest of his life.

During the Second World War he served as a volunteer in the British army. After the war he worked for the Jewish Agency and, after the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, for its Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This service was of brief duration. In 1949 he joined the academic staff of the Hebrew University, first as founder and director of the Department of the Middle East in Modern Times, then as director of the Institute of Asian and African Studies. Ayalon became a full professor in 1959, and remained active in teaching and research until, and long after, his retirement. At the moment of his death, several new studies are still in the press.

Like many scholars in small countries with little-known languages, Ayalon worked and published on two levels: in his own language for his fellow countrymen; and in a world language – in his case English – for the international scholarly community. In both of these he did pioneer work.

His most important contribution to Israeli scholarship was a dictionary. In a country where a significant proportion of the population, as well as all the neighbouring states, speak Arabic, an accurate knowledge of that language and of the culture that it enshrines is obviously a primary educational need. Ayalon devoted much of his life to deepening and extending that knowledge.

In 1947, in association with a colleague, Pesach Shinar, he published a pioneer Arabic dictionary, which at once became and has remained a standard work of reference. In addition to its obvious usefulness to speakers of either language studying the other, it is also an important contribution to Arabic lexicography, recording and explaining many new terms and usages in that constantly evolving language.

His contribution to international scholarship was primarily in history, more especially the history of armies and warfare, and of the Mameluke institution by which so much of the military history of the region was shaped. His primacy in the field is attested by the score or more articles that he wrote for the international *Encyclopaedia of*

Islam, published in Leiden, London and Paris. These included pioneering studies on such topics as warfare, siegework, firearms and the like, in their Middle Eastern historical context.

But Ayalon was not simply a military historian, important as that may be. His studies go deeper and examine the social and cultural implications both of military change and of the rejection of military change. His book *Gunpowder and Firearms in the Mameluke Kingdom: challenge to a medieval society* (1956) is a case in point. So, too, are his many articles on the institution of military slavery. Starting with late medieval Egypt, he extended his studies both backward into the period of the caliphate, and forward, into the functioning of the Mameluke institution in Ottoman Egypt.

David Ayalon received many honours, both in Israel and abroad. Among others, he was a recipient of the highly esteemed Israel Prize (1972), a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences (1961), an honorary fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society (1992), the American Oriental Society (1993) and the American Historical Association (1997). He is sur-

When scholars on both sides of the Middle East conflict are able to examine each other's history with the same dispassion, peace will be significantly nearer

vived by his widow Myriam Rosen-Ayalon, Professor of Islamic Art and Archaeology at the Hebrew University.

Let me conclude with two anecdotes. Some time in the 1950s, I ran into Ayalon coming out of the British Museum. He was visibly angry, the object of his anger being President Nasser. I assumed that this was Ayalon the Israeli, concerned about his country's conflict with Egypt. I was quite wrong. It was Ayalon the historian who was angry. He had just read Nasser's *Philosophy of the Revolution*, and was outraged by "the slanderous nonsense that Nasser talked about the Mamelukes".



The second anecdote, some years later relates to an Egyptian doctoral student, working on the medieval history of his country. Since Ayalon was visiting London at the time, I thought it would be useful for the student to meet a leading authority in his field. There were, however, the obvious difficulties in the way of such a meeting, and I put it to the student that, while I thought it might be useful for him to meet and discuss his work with the Israeli professor, I had no wish to cause him any trouble or even embarrassment, and would understand perfectly if he preferred not to meet. The student was de-

lighted – nothing would give him greater pleasure than to meet this great scholar and profit from his wisdom and knowledge. They met on several occasions, and parted on the friendliest terms.

When scholars on both sides of current Middle East conflicts are able to examine each other's history and heritage in the same spirit of dispassionate scholarship, peace will be significantly nearer.

Bernard Lewis

David Neustadt (David Ayalon), lexicographer; born Haifa, Palestine 17 May 1914; married Myriam Rosen; died Jerusalem 25 June 1998.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

MUSSETT: On 16 June, to Adam and Lindsay, another wonderful son, George Patrick, a brother to Luke.

THURLOW: On 11 July 1998, to Jacqueline and Simon, a son, Miles David, a brother for Madeline Lucy.

DEATHS

BINDON: (née Organ) Sally, beloved wife of Michael, sister of John (retired Professor of French) and Michael, and much-loved aunt, died peacefully on Saturday 11 July after a long and courageous battle against illness. Funeral 2.20pm Monday 20 July Crossceiling, Cwrt Bras, Flowers, donations to Cancer Research. Eulogy to R. Bevan, 01873 830493.

LAWRENCE: Edna, died peacefully on 11 July 1998 at Broadlands, Chapel Llanilltern. The funeral will take place on Friday 17 July, at Glyntaff Crematorium, at 3pm. LOUGH: Suddenly on July 13 Muriel (née Barker), of Durham, aged 84 years. Dearly missed wife of John (retired Professor of French) and much-loved mother of Judith. Funeral to take place on Monday 20. Would friends please meet for service and cremation at Durham Crematorium at 1.30pm. Private flowers only, please by request. Donations in lieu, if so desired, to Cancer Research.

SUTTON: On 13 July, Anne Leslie (née Hope), of Maldon Court School, with great courage, dignity and grace, at her beloved family home. Funeral at All Saints' Church, Maldon, on Sunday 21 July at 11.30am, followed by cremation at Chelmsford. No flowers, please. Donations, if desired, to the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund and/or the Samaritans, c/o A.G. Smiths, 7 Spatial Road, Maldon. A Thanksgiving Service for Anne will be held in the autumn.

IN MEMORIAM

AVERY: Elliott George. One year ago, miss you loads, young Avery. Mark and Melinda.

Announcements for Deaths, Births, Marriages & Deaths are charged at £1.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

The Sultan of Brunei, 52; Professor Sir James Ball, economist, 65; Dr Jocelyn Bell Burnell, astronomer, 55; Sir Harrison Birtwistle, composer, 64; Mr Julian Bream, guitarist, 65; Mr Geoffrey Burgon, composer, 57; Lord Buxton of Alsta, former chairman, Anglia Television, 80; Miss Carmen Callil, founder, Virago Press, 60; Mr Robert Conquest, writer, 81; Professor Sir David Cox, former Warden of Nuffield College, Oxford, 74; Mr John Denham MP, Parliamentary Secretary, Social Security, 45; Sir Alexander Durie, a former vice-president of the AA, 83; Sir Malcolm Edge, former Professor Master and Chairman, Board of Trinity House, 67; Air Marshal the Rev Sir Paterson Fraser, 91; Sir Simon Gourlay, former President, National Farmers' Union, 64; Sir John Graham, former diplomat, 72; Miss Ann Jellicoe, playwright and theatre director, 71; Mr Charles Kelly, former Chief Constable, Staffordshire, 68; Sir Larry Lamb, former Editor, *Daily Express*, 69; Dame Iris Murdoch, novelist and philosopher, 79; Mrs Juliet Pannett, portrait painter, 87; Mrs Marion Roe MP, 62; Miss Linda Ronstadt, singer, 52; Mr Ron Smith, trade unionist, 83; Air Chief Marshal Sir Ruthven Wade, 78; Professor Lord Winston, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 58.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Inigo Jones, architect, 1573; John Barnett (Beer), composer, 1802; Sir Henry Cole, promoter of the

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the City and Guilds of London Institute,

Great Exhibition of 1851 and founder of the South Kensington Museum, 1808; Cardinal Manning, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, 1808; Benno Adam, animal painter, 1812; Dame Marie Tempest (Marie Susan Etherington) actress, 1864; Alfred Charles William Harmsworth, first Viscount Northcliffe, newspaper proprietor, 1865; Noel Gay (Richard Moxon Armitage), composer, 1898; Deaths: Vladimir I. Prince of Kiev, 1015; Jean-Germain Drouais, historical painter, 1788; Karl Czerny, pianist and composer, 1857; William H. Bonney (alias Henry McCarty or "Billy the Kid"), outlaw, shot by Sheriff Pat Garrett, 1881; "General Tom Thumb" (Charles Sherwood Stratton), a 40in-tall dwarf in Barnum's circus, 1883; Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, playwright and author, 1904; Emil Hermann Fischer, chemist, 1919; Mary Cholmondeley, novelist, 1925; Walter Gay, artist, 1927; John Joseph Pershing, soldier, 1948; Paul William Gallico, writer, 1976; Margaret Mary Lockwood, actress, 1990. On this day: Jerusalem was captured by the Crusaders, 1099; the Royal Society was granted a royal charter, 1662; the "Marseillaise" was adopted as the French National Anthem, 1795; margarine was patented by Hippolyte Mege-Mouriès of Paris, 1869; Social Insurance came into effect in Britain, 1912; Mrs Clara Adams of New York was the first woman to complete a round-the-world flight (19 hours, four minutes), 1939; Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in Britain, 1948; close-up pictures of Mars

presents awards at Buckingham Palace, followed by lunch at the Connaught Hotel, London W1. The Princess Royal, Commandant-in-Chief, Cadets, St John Ambulance.

were transmitted by television from US *Mariner IV* satellite, 1965. Today is the Feast Day of St Athanasius of Alexandria. St David of Munktorp, St Donald, St Edith of Polesworth, St Pomilio Pirrotti, St Swithun and St Vladimir of Kiev.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Caravaggio (ii): The Flagellation of Christ", 1pm; Gabriele Finaldi, "Canaletto Paints Venice", 6.30pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: I. Amelia Fearn, "Silver Design in the 20th Century", 2pm.

LUNCHEONS

Institute of the Motor Industry: Prince Michael of Kent. President of the Institute of the Motor Industry, presided over the Institute's President's Lunch held yesterday at Fanshawes, Bricketwood, Hertfordshire. Prince Michael handed over the presidency to Lord Brabazon of Tara.

DINNERS

Foundation for Science and Technology: Lord Jenkins of Roding, Chairman. Foundation for Science and Technology was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London SW1. Dr Geoffrey Robinson, Professor Martin Boddy and Mr Dave Hampton spoke on "Quality of Life for the Millennium Generation – living and working space". Among those present were:

Lord and Lady Butterworth, Lord Cholmondeley, Baroness Hilton, Lady Jenkins, Lord Perry of Walton, Lord Queen Sir Austin Rose, Field Marshal Sir Sir Richard, Sir Peter Uptonfield; Professor Dame Barbara Clifton, Sir Richard Morris, Sir Martin Rees, Mr Tam Dalyell MP, Dr Ian Gibson MP, Mr John McFall MP, Mr Alan Milburn MP, Mrs Jenny Bacon, Dr Jim McDonald, Dr Peter J. Saunders.

HMS Victory: Admiral Sir John Brigstocke, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, and Lady Brigstocke were the hosts at a dinner for the Order of St John held yesterday evening onboard HMS Victory, Portsmouth Naval Base.

Lord Vestey, Lord Prior of the Order, was the guest of honour. Among the guests were:

Professor and Mrs Anthony Mellowes, Baroness Amerson, Sir Christopher and Lady Finch, Sir Kenneth Alves, Mr and Mrs George Bowes, Mr Stuart Gruber, Mr and Mrs Christopher Johnson, Mr Lewis Martin, Mr and Mrs Ned Sheeran.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

Sir Leonard Appleyard, former British ambassador to China, delivered the seventh in a series of English-Speaking Union lectures entitled "Furthering International Understanding" yesterday evening at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London SW1. He spoke on "China – Awakening Giant". Baroness Brigstocke, ESU Chairman, was in the chair.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

HISTORICAL NOTES

DOUGLAS JOHNSON

Commemoration manqué

CAPTAIN ALFRED Dreyfus may have said of himself that he was only an artillery officer whose career had been interrupted by a tragic error. But his name now stands for the fight against injustice. The prisoner on Devil's Island denied that he had sold military secrets to the Germans. But it was said that he was Jewish and not French. He was the victim of prejudice, irrational ideology and a perverted system of justice. His final victory was, and remains, a victory for civilisation.

France is a country that believes in the commemoration of important events in French history, but, although Dreyfus was arrested in October 1894, there was no celebration until 13 January 1998. And this marked the 100th anniversary of Emile Zola's famous newspaper article "J'accuse".

The ceremony was very grand. A plaque was placed on the house where Zola had lived, the Minister for Education assured a large gathering at the Sorbonne that "J'accuse" would be read to all pupils in state schools, and the Prime Minister, accompanied by his leading ministers, paid hommage to Zola in the crypt of the Pantheon, the resting place of France's great men.

But why choose Zola to commemorate Dreyfus? It is true that his article caused great excitement and made the affair a matter of public interest. But it did not convince the public that Dreyfus was innocent. If one follows the step-by-step process whereby Dreyfus was eventually freed, we should have had our attention called to 7 July last.

On 7 July 1898, the then minister for War, Cavagnac, revealed to the National Assembly the documents which supposedly proved Dreyfus's guilt. For the first time, details were given. This was a great moment and it was officially decided that an extract from the speech should be placarded in every commune in France. But five weeks later it was discovered that the principal document was a forgery. The case against Dreyfus was collapsing.

Why then does 7 July 1998 pass unnoticed? It is because commemorations of the past have to be relevant to the present. "J'accuse" responds to the preoccupations and pretensions of France today. It represents the triumph of French

literature. It is the action of the committed intellectual, who is specifically French. With Zola, we look back to Voltaire and forward to Sartre. We are commemorating a whole world of French achievement.

In political terms, Zola's "J'accuse" remade the Republican "block" and brought about a clear-cut division between radicals and conservatives. Consequently, the day after his speech in the Pantheon, Jospin tried to associate the present Left with the Dreyfusards, whilst pointing to the opposition, the Right, as the party that was always anti-Dreyfus. He hoped to benefit from Zola in 1998, as Clemenceau had in 1898. He wanted to appear at the head of a party imbued with ideals, not as a government dealing with the technical problem of unemployment.

The Zola letter is part of the drama of French history. The highest in the land are accused of complicity with injustice. But the letter also poses a moral problem. Those whom Zola attacks were not cheap villains. They were patriots who believed that they were protecting a France that had just been defeated in a war with Prussia. So, as the Frenchman today thrills to Zola's words, he asks himself if he would have put the welfare of an individual before that of the French Army?

Thus, in France, commemoration relives both the excitements and the moral dilemmas of the past. To commemorate the past is to give life to the present. "Je commémore, donc je suis."

Douglas Johnson is the author of "The Dreyfus Affair" (Susser Publications, £11)

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

15 JULY 1998

R v Smith (Morgan James)

Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Rose, Vice President, Mr Justice Potts and Mr Justice Douglas Brown)

10 July 1998

Mr Justice Potts said that it was submitted for the appellant that the objective standard of the "reasonable man" test in section 3 of the Homicide Act 1957, a defendant's mental impairment, was a characteristic which was relevant not only to the gravity of the loss of self-control.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of Morgan James Smith against his conviction of murder, and substituted the conviction with one of manslaughter, but granted leave to the prosecution to appeal to the House of Lords.

At his trial the appellant denied murder, but admitted manslaughter on the basis of, *inter alia*, provocation. It was argued on his behalf that there was evidence that he had suffered a severe depressive episode of substantial duration, and that that, with its consequence of disinhibition, was a characteristic with which the reasonable man should be imbued for the purposes of section 3 of the Homicide Act 1957.

The judge directed the jury that such a depressive episode was capable of being a characteristic with which the reasonable man was to be imbued, but was relevant only to the gravity of the provocation and not to the reasonable man's loss of self-control. The appellant was convicted of murder and appealed against his conviction on the ground, *inter alia*, that the judge had erred in his direction.

Peter Thornton QC (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant: John Kelsey-Fry (Crown Prosecution Service) for the Crown.

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
big cheese, n.

The earliest citation is in a story by O. Henry written in 1910, but he used it in connection with a metaphor about a lean rat, and had *Big Cheese* mean "ing success rather than a successful person. When Raymond Chandler, in 1934, wrote, "So the big cheese gave me the job", there is no doubt that this was the real *cheese*. Whatever the merits of an Urdu derivation, it seems likely that the similarity in sound between "cheese" and "cheif" also played a part.

Victim, killer, cause celebre and heroine

FOR MUCH of her life, Emma Humphreys was a victim, but she died a fighter. Even on the day she died, she was about to embark on another battle. She had taken on the English judicial system and beaten it when her conviction for murdering her violent, abusive partner was quashed by the Court of Appeal in 1995. She had served longer in prison than many murderers serve for a crime she had not committed. When she died, Emma was about to report a man who had raped her.

"It was so brave of her," says her friend, Julie Bindel, who, with the pressure group, Justice for Women, had campaigned for her release from prison. "We took her on holiday a few weeks ago and said: 'Do you want to do this?' She said that she had to."

But on Saturday, Ms Bindel found Emma dead in the bed of the home she had made for herself in London. She was just 30 years old.

"What had happened was her spirit and enthusiasm had peaked, but her body had troughed," Ms Bindel says. "She had the will to live,

'She had the will to live but the prison system and the lack of care meant her body just couldn't survive'

but the prison system and the lack of care in her life meant her body just couldn't survive."

Emma Humphreys had already survived more than a body could be expected to bear. After an abusive childhood, she turned to prostitution in her early teens. Trevor Armitage, a drug addict twice her age, picked her up and subjected her to months of beatings, rapes and verbal abuse. One night, he promised his son and some male friends a "gang bang" and brought them back to the home they shared in Bulwell, Nottinghamshire. Emma, terrified, ran upstairs with two knives and slashed her wrists.

Armitage's reaction when he found her was to laugh at her bloody arms and get undressed. As he tried to rape her, she plunged a knife into his chest.

Humphreys was convicted of murder and given the mandatory life sentence at Nottingham Crown Court in December 1985, but she believed the decision was wrong. However, it was only when she learned of the cases of other battered women, Kiranjit Ahluwalia and Sara Thornton, did she see begin to understand why.

Emma Humphreys inspired victims of abuse after she was cleared of killing her violent boyfriend. Now she is dead, what will be her legacy? By Louise Jury

She became determined not to accept the label of murderer and served two years longer than the recommended tariff so she could challenge her original conviction. In 1995, she succeeded. Lord Justice Hirst, Mr Justice Kay and Mr Justice Cazalet ruled that the jury at Nottingham Crown Court had been misdirected by the trial judge. They reduced her conviction to manslaughter on grounds of long-term provocation.

Emma Humphreys emerged from court to cheers outside. "It has been a long process, longer than anybody knows," she said.

But the victory seemed hollow. Social services had made no provision to help her and only her friends in Justice for Women prevented an immediate return to the life she had led as a teenager.

"She had no support, no counselling and was on massive doses of medication," Julie Bindel says. "Without us, she would have been back down King's Cross, working as a prostitute and overdosing on heroin. She would have killed herself then."

Cocooned in a house with her supporters, they at least saved her from that. But she had problems adapting. "Sometimes I wonder whether it is all real and I become frightened it's just a dream. It's too hard to believe I really am free," she said in an interview a few days after her release.

Her first year outside was "hell". She ran wild, took pills to sleep. But then she found herself a home and began campaigning for other women in a similar plight. Her friends bought her a cat for her 30th birthday last October. Only last Thursday, she wrote to the teacher who encouraged her to write while she was in Holloway prison, to discuss finally writing her life story.

"She had started to form a life, become a whole human being," Ms Bindel says. "People saw a great change of need there, but she gave a lot to other people. She was very, very funny, witty and sarcastic and cutting. I think the word 'chutzpah' was invented for Emma."

She wanted to go back to prison and counsel men who had abused women. However, her friends advised her against this. They felt that she was too fragile to take on such a task. "Men continued to sniff

out her vulnerability, almost to the day she died."

Although Emma's weight had dropped to four or five stone, Julie Bindel believes it was not the anorexia that killed her. If food was placed in front of her, she did eat. "It was the medication that ultimately killed her," Ms Bindel blames the prison service for giving her medicine to keep her quiet. "But she was without question not planning to die. She was planning all kinds of things, but not dying. She was surrounded by love and had hopes."

After her death, her name lives on in the law. Emma Humphreys' case has been mentioned "in just about every Court of Appeal case," Ms Bindel says. "She challenged the law, but, more than that, she gave women hope. What they saw was this woman who had lived a life of hell, but found the strength to fight." Letter after letter would arrive at the Justice for Women headquarters addressed for her. Many said simply "Thank you".

Rohit Sanghvi, Emma's solicitor who also acted for Kiranjit Ahluwalia and represented Sara Thornton at her first appeal, says her case was "enormously significant".

Before the 1990s, the law was based on a ruling by Mr Justice Devin in 1949 that for manslaughter with a defence of provocation to succeed, there had to be a "sudden and temporary loss of self-control".

Mr Sanghvi says this was based "entirely on male experience, not female experience". In most circumstances, women have to wait until their batterer is weakened - asleep or drunk, for example - before they are in a position to hit back. What the courts decided in Kiranjit Ahluwalia and Emma Humphreys' cases was that the "loss of self-control" could be immediately before they struck out - but possibly some time after they were last provoked.

The effect of the decision is seen today throughout the courts, Mr Sanghvi says. "Domestic violence has been brought out into the open. Juries are no longer asked to pooh-pooh the idea of battering, but are appreciative that battering can be one of the most horrendous crimes that is committed inside the home."

Manslaughter on grounds of provocation is not a minor offence, he points out. But the sentence is discretionary, unlike the mandatory life for murder. The provocation can be

considered in mitigation. Hanama Siddiqui, of the Southall Black Sisters campaigners, says the judiciary still has lessons to learn about the experience of battered women. "But Emma's case and Kiranjit and Sara Thornton's cases were instrumental in getting the judiciary, the public, the media and Parliament to think about domestic violence as an issue of importance."

Ms Siddiqui fears that recently there has been something of a judicial backlash. The Sisters were furious when the conviction of Zora Shah, who murdered her abusive lover, failed to be overturned at the Court of Appeal earlier this year. "But the public is still behind us," Ms Siddiqui says. "There was a sense of public outrage in Zora's case and Emma was part of building that up."

Julie Bindel says Justice for Women intend to set up a prize in Emma's name. It will go to someone who fights violence against women. "Emma was a great campaigner. She never stopped wanting to change things."

The group also intends to cam-

In most cases, women have to wait until their batterer is asleep before being able to hit back

paign for changes in the prison system. Intensely critical of the amount of medication they claim is prescribed in women's prisons, Justice for Women want a greater emphasis on counselling. They also believe there should be an inquiry into why so little support was available to this badly damaged woman let loose into the world after serving more than 10 years inside. "Were it not for her friends, she would have died before now," Ms Bindel says.

Rohit Sanghvi says that Emma Humphreys never really had a chance. "She didn't have a chance in her childhood or in her adulthood. She was faced with so many problems. She spent the whole of her adult life, from 17 to 27, in institutional custody and when she was eventually freed, she was given very little support. She was out at sea on her own."

But she was a "lovely individual" who converted herself into being a fighter. "She had inner strength of courage to refuse to accept her guilt for murder," he says. "She left a legacy which women all over the country should be incredibly thankful and grateful for - how to be stubborn when you're right."



Emma Humphreys on the day of her release from prison

Richard Lewis

Would you walk through fire for your boss?



Fire-walking could be the least of your worries as your colleagues fall out around you

Making your employees jump into rivers and walk over hot coals might seem like a good idea - when you're sitting in the boardroom. By Glenda Cooper

"IF THEY asked you to put your hand in the fire I suppose you'd do it?" your mother always sighed. Well if you are a trainee at one of the biggest insurance companies, she was right.

Seven trainees at Eagle Life Star were hospitalised after a day-long "motivational course" at a hotel near the company's headquarters in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. After a day of problem-solving games, trainees removed their socks and shoes and were invited, for the final exercise, to walk on a bed of hot coals. Eagle Life Star said a "full and frank internal inquiry" was in progress.

Ah, the joys of motivational weekends. What is it about management theorists that they think if you have not spent a weekend together learning how to get from one side of the room to the other without touching the floor, or energetically paintballing each other in the countryside, then your company will never make the FTSE 100?

The idea behind such courses is that workers should learn more about each other; learn to trust their colleagues and become highly motivated. The reality can be that people end up injured, humiliated or falling out, and the majority of the bonding happens in the pub - just like a normal weekday.

But that doesn't stop people doing it, as the recent successful television

programme *Neville's Island* showed. It followed four fictional businessmen from Salford on a team-building weekend to discover hitherto hidden talents and skills. Unfortunately, they get lost instead and mayhem follows.

However funny *Neville's Island* was, it was no match for real life. One of the most amusing events of last autumn was when William Hague took the Conservative party on a bonding weekend in Eastbourne. The MPs reacted with different

"We're looking for things that will help people discover how they can use their initiative."

Which, according to the chief of an electronics company who has been on a different firewalking course, is not always what happens.

"Oh they say no one is compelled to walk across the coals but you're made to feel such a jerk in such a subtle way if you don't do it," he says. "It's all such a big show. They get people all hyped up and then they're left to go flat. They often

People end up injured, humiliated or falling out and the real bonding happens in the pub

degrees of enthusiasm - Nicholas Soames refused to go on principle. Stephen Dorrell went with a wardrobe of quite unmissable jumpers and Alan Clark was ecstatic, saying he wouldn't miss it for the world (until someone pointed out he had misheard the word bonding).

Debbie Isaacs, spokeswoman for Eagle Life, was keen to point out that the firewalking was the culmination of seven months of training and that, in the past, they had found similar courses "highly motivational, team building, confidence building". In the past, however, they had restricted themselves to adventure courses.

have very good material, there are good techniques but in the end it's all made into a show and I think that's prostitution."

Common techniques that are used on management courses also include hugging and kissing your neighbour in order to "break down comfort zones". Impact Development Training uses what it calls a "pamper pole" - a telegraph pole that you climb to the top of and then jump through a trapeze. This, it is said, is designed to develop support and trust.

Those who use such services are

fiercely protective of them. While conceding that the most recent outcome was less than ideal, Ms Isaacs said that other Eagle Life Star courses had been very successful in building up team spirit.

Those who have been on courses themselves are less sure. A management consultant is still sulking about one course he went on some years ago. "You had to make something out of limited materials; paper, scissors etc, and see which would travel furthest," he said. "We made a paper boat but the people who won made a catapult. I suppose it's all very well, but there's no skill in the construction of catapults like there was with our boat. Everyone normally ends up falling out anyway when someone starts an argument because you won't do it their way."

And one former bank worker remembers with gritted teeth another motivational course: "We had to prepare a presentation for the last day, to be given at 8am. It was basically made up of impossible tasks so that by 8am we were all hyper on blood sugar boosts or killing each other with tiredness. We finally got it sorted by about 6am, only to be told as we walked into the presentation room that there were no presentations - it was to monitor how we operated under stress."

So what happened? "Everyone got drunk and shagged each other." Well at least some kind of bonding was achieved.

You ask the questions

(Such as, Julie Burchill, what advice would you have given Diana, Princess of Wales, what would you say to *HELLO!* and do you still read the *NME*?)

THE JOURNALIST and novelist Julie Burchill, 38, was born in Bristol. In 1976 she started working at the *New Musical Express*; her six books to date include the best-selling novel *Ambition*. This year she published her autobiography, *I Knew I Was Right*. Aged 20, Burchill married Tony Parsons; they had one son. She then left him for the journalist Cosmo Landesman, with whom she had another son. She left Landesman for a well-publicised affair with Charlotte Raven, now editor of *The Modern Review*. Burchill lives in Brighton and her current boyfriend is Charlotte Raven's younger brother, Daniel.

If you could have asked Diana, Princess of Wales one question before she died, what would you have asked her?

Lucy Wedekind, Leicester
I would have asked her if Prince Charles was as appalling a sexual partner as that sort of man - self-pitying, middle-aged, conceited - usually is.

Which woman and man would you most like to have lunch with?

C Smith, Canterbury, Kent
My boyfriend's mother, Susan Raven, and my boyfriend, Daniel Raven. I know that these are somewhat sickly answers, but I cannot imagine preferring anyone's company to theirs. I have often had lunches with both of them individually which have started at 1pm and ended at 7.30 in the evening.

When did you last read the *NME*? What did you think of it? How did you vote in the last election?

Dave Howe, Hanwell, London
They sent me one about six months ago when it went all *NME Lite* with staples and colour and print that doesn't come off on your hands.

I would no more buy it than I would buy *The Lady*. That world doesn't exist any more. I thought it was tragic, but it's been like that ever since Ian Penman left.

I have only ever voted once and that was for Michael Foot's Labour Party. For the rest, they have been a bunch of tossers, and that goes for Mrs Thatcher too. Yes, I was wrong.

Was everything really so much better when you were young?

Callum Jacobs, London
Not a bit of it. I'm sorry if I ever gave this impression. I loathed punk, particularly, and was extremely glad when it finished.

What's the most embarrassing thing you have ever done?

Pauline Young, Preston, Lancs
Being best friends with Toby Young. One night we cut our thumbs and mixed our blood. I could die to think of it now. The only thing I'm grateful for is that I never slept with him.

Which writer do you most admire, and which is your favourite film?

Paul Laurence, Oxfordshire
Patrick Hamilton is my favourite writer and *Heavenly Creatures* my favourite film.

What makes you cry?

Kate Hardwick, Glasgow

Practically everything.

If *Hello!* wanted to visit your home would you let them?

Hannah Marshall, Cheshire
Certainly not. The bloodstains on the ceiling would be hard to explain,

What's the most recent movie have you most enjoyed?

John O'Byrne, Dublin
Fuse Off and *The Wedding Singer*.

Do you ever feel intellectually intimidated? If so, by whom?

Dan Thornton, Birmingham
By the brilliant feminist writers Andrea Dworkin, Susan Faludi and Elizabeth Wurtzel; by my friend Ian Penman, probably the world's greatest living writer; and by Professor John Carey, a magnificent man, commendable bee-keeper and all-round lovely little thinker.

If it was death, or sex with David Mellor, which would you choose?

Liz Corbett, Somerset
Could I plump for sex with a dead David Mellor?

Is there anything that ever makes you feel humble?

Simon Fletcher, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire
Everything about my dad: Charlotte Raven with her clothes off (from memory); the sea; Graham Greene; trades unions, especially when leading strikes; people dying for what they believe in most of all.

If you could have offered Diana a single bit of advice, what would it have been? Do you think you'd have got on well together?

Charlie Sandon, Poole

Of course my advice would have been "Don't do it." I think we'd have got on well together on a superficial level because I'd have made her laugh, and she needed a few more laughs in her life. Then I'd have had a few drinks and started going on about class war and she'd have got bored and made her excuses and gone to the gym.

What are your drugs of choice?

Mick Yorke, North Yorkshire
Zantac 75.

Do you ever try to diet? If not, why not? If so, why?

Sharon Burton, Norwich
No, I don't. When I was young I was the thinnest, prettiest girl in London and I wasn't particularly happy, especially from the age of 13 to the age of 24. My sex life in particular was pathetically underdeveloped until I put on weight and met my second husband.

As you lose your beauty, you tend to develop other skills, and I have never been happier with that side of things.

Is there something horribly man-pleasing about working to "keep" your looks. It really seems to annoy men if you let yourself go, and I'm all for that.

Do you ever wear leggings?

Esther Shaw, Clapham
Is this a trick question?

What do you wear on the beach?

Sylvia Giles, Bath
A black one-piece, but I insist that my boyfriend stands by at all times with a large tarpaulin lest small children run screaming.

Is there anything you miss about not living in London?

Polly Smyth, Sussex

Not one damn thing.

Who is the person who knows most of your secrets?

Rick Hale, Croydon

My boyfriend.

He's known everything about me for almost three years now and he still isn't out the door. That's what I call a man.

Do you wonder whether, if you had not nicked Charlotte Raven from Derek Draper, any of this cash-for-access scandal would have happened?

Robert McGrath, Canterbury

Had I not nicked Charlotte, Derek would probably have sold her to Mohammed Fayed by now.

Julie Burchill's biography *Diana* is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, price £20.



Next week:
MICHAEL WINNER

Please send any questions you would like to put to film director Michael Winner to: You Ask The Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; by fax on 0171-293 2182; e-mail them to yourquestions@independent.co.uk by lunchtime on Friday 17 July.



THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

5. FUSSY EATERS
BY VIRGINIA IRONSIDE,
AGONY AUNT



RECENTLY I ordered a large piece of chocolate cake in a restaurant. "Naughty, naughty!" said my friend, wagging a finger at me. On another occasion, when I ordered a salad, it was, "Oh, aren't you being good. I suppose I ought to have one too."

Naughty? Good? Ought? I was simply having what I happened to want; there was no morality in it at all. My friend's voice was the voice of the food freak who has lost all sense of his or her personal dietary judgement and sees food in terms of what we ought and ought not to eat. Any apple with a little bit of brown on it has to be thrown away because it is "bad"; any lettuce full of greenfly is chucked rather than washed, picked over and served. I have seen whole cheeses binned because they had developed mould around the edges. I always take a knife to the mould and eat the rest.

Recently I left some lamb in the fridge and found, by using the ancient art of sniffing, that it was on the turn. There were shiny greenish bits on the sides. I simply sliced them off, ran it under the tap, and grilled it. I could not help grinning wickedly as I served it to someone who normally threatens illness if the word "off" is mentioned and who, in the event, declared it "delicious" and asked for more.

Did he have a tummy-ache afterwards? Not a twinge.

My mother used to scrape green pork under a tap, then grill it, and we all lived healthily and happily to tell the tale.

And anyway, a lot of food is improved if it is slightly "off".

One of the sad things about beef is that it is unhung and therefore tasteless these days, and never was a pheasant put

on the table in grand country houses until the first maggot had appeared in its innards.

Some of the best foods - cheese, sour cream - are "off". I never understand why sour cream has a sell-by date; when mine develops mouldy spots I spoon them off and eat the rest.

The result of today's preoccupation with "health" is that we are increasingly unhealthy. Recently it was revealed that the reason more children are developing asthma is because the air is getting cleaner, so any stray fumes that pass by result in dangerous choking fits.

When we lived through London fog and wood smoke, there were far fewer cases; we had become immune.

As for food, you cannot go on holiday these days without someone developing tummy troubles. As a result of my robust eating habits I was the only one on a trip to Egypt who came out of the whole experience unscathed.

I refuse to be bullied by the food freaks. I use my eyes and my nose to dictate what is fresh, and if I am at all uncertain I cook it for a very, very long time. The result is that I can tell a fish that is off long before my friends who rely not on their noses but the label.

If you have read this article

you probably would not want to come to dinner with me. But then, most likely you would have to cry off anyway, with a hymen upset brought on by a titchy bit of mould on a strawberry yoghurt.

A PECULIAR case made it to Wandsworth County Court, south London, yesterday, that of Regent Productions vs Trevor Montague. Regent, in case you didn't know, is one of the UK's leading TV quiz show producers and maker of Channel 4's *Fifteen-to-One*. Mr Montague, meanwhile, is a self-styled quiz show king.

At issue is the programme producers' claim that Mr Montague broke the quiz show's rules by taking part three times - once in heavy disguise, and under an assumed name, "Steve Romana". By all accounts, he was rather successful. He eventually won the grand final and prizes said to be worth more than £3,000 - prizes which Regent's owner and quiz show presenter, William Stewart, now wants returned.

Fifteen-to-One's rules stipulate, you see, that contestants can take part only once except under special circumstances. Mr Stewart, it seems, is eager to dissuade others from following suit and claims that Montague enjoyed an unfair advantage through his deceit. Mr Montague, meanwhile, is astonished at all the fuss.

"There was no intention to defraud," he told the *Daily Mail*. "I just enjoy taking part in television quizzes."

He is not joking. Montague is little short of being a quiz show addict. Not only has he croppped up three times on Stewart's show, he has also notched up appearances on 70-plus TV and radio quizzes, including *The Krypton Factor*, *Mastermind*, *Brian's Britain*, *Today's the Day...*, oh, and he won *Winner Takes All*. He is not alone. More cable, satellite and soon, digital TV channels, means more TV quiz shows. And more wannabe contestants.

Mark Nyman, producer of Channel 4's longest-running quiz, *Countdown*, reports a steady rise in interest among people wanting to take part. "Growing opportunities to participate in TV quiz shows has certainly fuelled demand," he says. "In the 16 years since *Countdown*'s launch, we've featured 1,600 contestants. And applications continue to pour in."

TV quiz show mania is creating a breed of contestants who will do anything to get their face on the screen. By Meg Carter



King of quiz shows: Trevor Montague (centre), with 'Fifteen-To-One' presenter, William Stewart

The selection procedure is simple. Producers place an advertisement in the press and wait for applications to come in. Wannabe contestants are then interviewed for prime-time entertainment shows such as *Blind Date* and the *Price is Right*, to ensure they have a "bubbly" TV personality. "We look for people who are primarily good at playing *Countdown* at home," Mr Nyman adds. "Roughly one in seven gets through."

Nineties quiz show producers do not like to use contestants more than once; it spoils the illusion that anyone at home could play.

There is something odd about the same people cropping up time and time again, one researcher confides: "It smacks of fixing, even if it's totally beyond the producers' control."

In spite of this, a number of serial players regularly slip through the net. Elisabeth Jardine, seaside landlady and one-time "queen of quizzes", appeared on more than 16 separate programmes, winning a range of prizes including foreign holidays, a hussie trolley and a trouser press. She caught the bug 15 years ago, following an appearance on Bob Monkhouse's *Family Fortunes*.

Opinion is divided on what motivates these compulsive contestants.

Undoubtedly, prizes can be a major draw. With no ceiling now on the value of winnings that TV quiz shows can offer, prizes are steadily increasing - one show even offered a brand-new house, to the value of £100,000. Industry rumours now circulating include plans for an ITV quiz promising a prize pot of £1m.

But, for many just as big a motivation is proving you can win. Or, to put it another way: showing off. One quiz show addict, a bank manager's secretary with a point to prove, says: "I was thrown out of university after failing my exams and never

wanted to be seen again."

Which brings us back to Mr Montague. On Monday, he insisted that his addiction was never motivated by a desire for personal material gain. Glass decanters and a vase were among his allegedly ill-gotten gains. But, it seems, it was the taking part that really mattered.

Waste not your tears on him, however. Consider, instead, the fate of Mrs Mary Reeves of Calverton, Nottinghamshire - the eagle-eyed TV viewer who blew his gaff. For it was she who recently saw Mr Montague's covert 1992 appearance repeated on a cable TV channel and correctly identified Steve Romana, An addiction indeed.

Do the Wall Street shuffle

Rock stars seldom have sound business heads. While the media have been harping on about the Rolling Stones' tax avoidance plans (including rescheduling their UK concerts for another tax year) and Elton John's costly separation from his long-time manager, John Reid, U2 - who have always been thought to be one of rock's most financially sensible acts - have been having a few problems.

Reportedly worth a combined £250m, Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton, Larry Mullen Jr and manager Paul McGuinness (an equal partner in a five-way split) have kissed goodbye to at least £1m over the last few years. A rock management source was quoted in a Sunday newspaper as saying, "If you look back at their earnings over the past 20 years and ask what they have to show for being one of the world's leading rock bands, you have to conclude that they have nice houses and that is it."

Most of the money they lost was invested in Germany to build leisure centres, bowling alleys and laser shooting games facilities. Alas, after buying up prime sites, they subsequently discovered that war games with replica guns are banned by the German government.

Should U2 want to try and recover some of their financial outlay, here are some simple do's and don'ts to maximise income and ensure peace of mind.

Do... retain your own publishing rights. That's where the real money is. Just ask Paul McCartney, who is still trying to retrieve Northern Songs, the Beatles catalogue, from Michael Jackson. Still, Macca has made up for his disappointment by buying the copyrights of over 25,000 songs (including all the works of Ira Gershwin and Buddy Holly as well as "Happy Birthday"). His old Wings cohort, Denny Laine, made the unfortunate mistake of selling his share in "Mull of Kintyre" to his former colleague.

Do share royalties equally to avoid resentment from other band members. The Damned's Brian James was clever enough to put his name to all the songs on the group's first album; after he was edged out, communal credits were deemed the norm. The former Smiths drummer Mike Joyce, sued Morrissey and Johnny Marr for withdrawing royalties and won £1m. Ron Wood was only made a full member of the Rolling Stones ten years after he joined on a salary. Being to all intents and purposes Simply Red, Mick Hucknall has kept the other band members on wages.

Do write or record soundtracks. Elton John made a small fortune from the *Lion King*, while Simple Minds' breakthrough hit, "Don't You (Forget About Me)" came from *The Breakfast Club* brat-pack movie, after Bryan Ferry and Billy

Idol had both turned down the chance to contribute.

Do licence your songs for soundtracks and commercials. In 1991, Mick Jones was only too happy to allow Levi's to use The Clash's "Should I Stay or Should I Go" for a TV ad. Mick Jagger and Keith Richards earned \$5m by lending "Start Me Up" to Microsoft for their Windows 95 awareness-building campaign.

Do hang on to your merchandising. James's income from the sales of T-shirts kept them going before they signed to Mercury.

Do keep an eye on your affairs. Unlike Sting, who didn't notice that Keith Moore, his accountant, had appropriated £4.5m of his £9m fortune.

Do read your contract. Bros famously signed away 20 per cent of their gross income to their manager, Tom Watkins.

Do keep the taxman happy. Learn from the mistakes made by James Brown (in 1975, the Godfather of Soul owed \$4.5m in back taxes), Sly Stone (in 1976, he fled for bankruptcy after failing to pay tax) and Pink Floyd (in 1979, the collapse of investment company Norton Warburg left them liable for huge back-taxes on money that had by then vanished).

Do keep a diary of your comings and goings. Otherwise, all those tax-exile claims might just fail. In 1975, Rod Stewart nearly stepped on to British soil when changing planes at Heathrow. Realising it would have jeopardised his tax-exile status, he wisely stayed in the international departure lounge.

Do invest in property. Unless you're Mick Fleetwood. In the early Eighties, the Fleetwood Mac drummer bought American and Australian properties but the mortgage repayments soon exceeded his monthly earnings. By 1984, he owed \$8m and declared himself bankrupt. The real estate dealings of Sheena Easton, however, help bring her in around £1.5m a year. She spends most of her time in the States these days, tending her Jaguar collection.

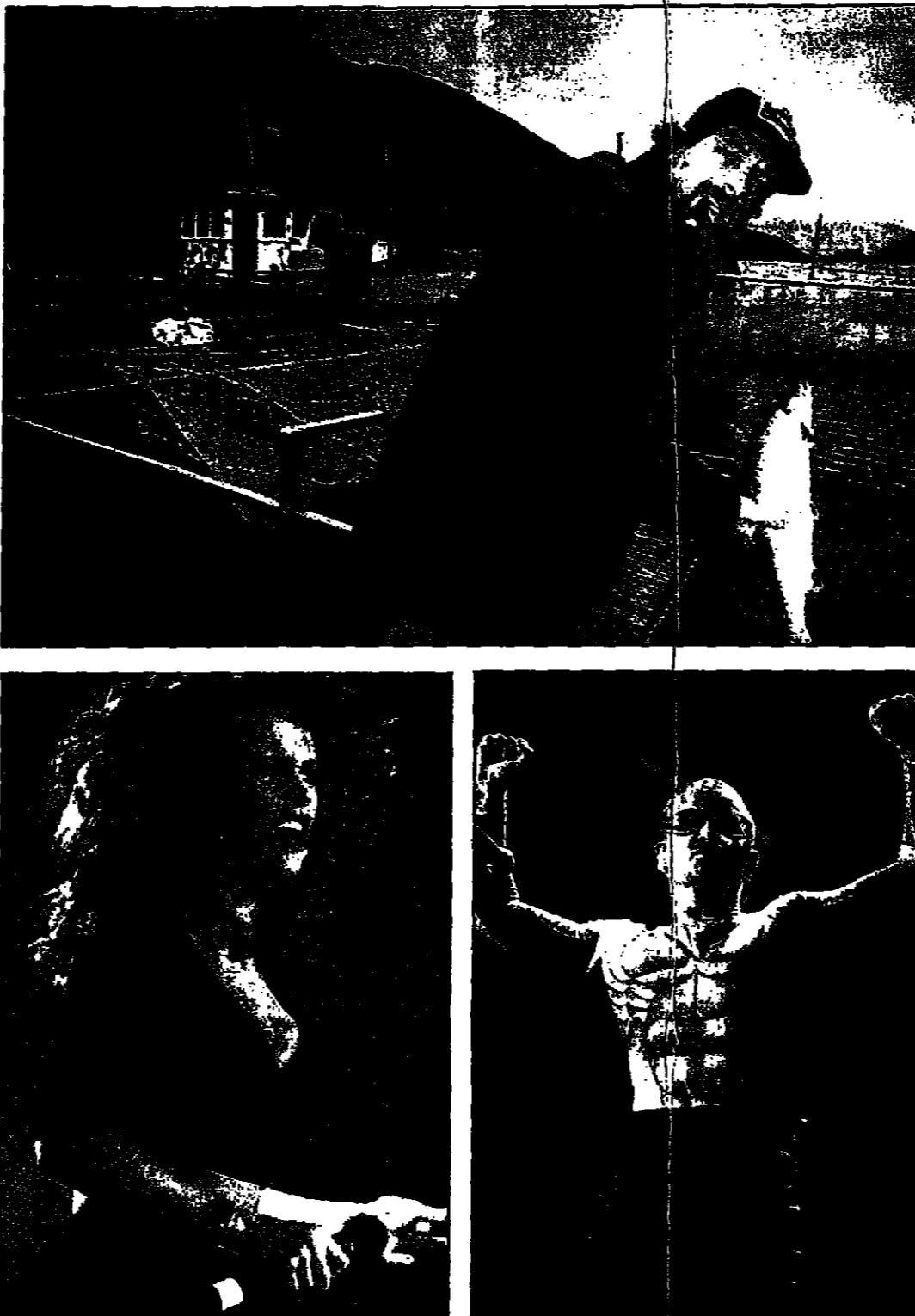
Do release the archive stuff fans clamour for Bob Dylan, The Beatles, The Who, Frank Zappa, Jethro Tull and Van Morrison have dusted off work in progress and assorted shelved tracks to beat the bootleggers.

Do an audit of your overseas and domestic royalties. Alan Klein impressed The Rolling Stones and The Beatles because he discovered overlooked monies from major record companies.

Do sell bonds against the income from future royalties. David Bowie and Rod Stewart have both increased their personal fortunes this way, and the Stones are said to be considering a similar move.

Do invest in fish. Jethro Tull singer Ian Anderson has done well out of his salmon farms in Scotland while Roger Daltrey favours trout-rearing in Sussex and Dorset.

Taxmen, swindlers and parasites have always been the bane of rock musicians, and though U2 are respected as celebs with business heads, even they foul up. Did no one tell them there were good reasons not to set up a chain of laser-gun games in Germany? Or that fish farms are what the sensible star buys into these days? By Pierre Perrone



Ian Anderson of Jethro Tull (top), and Sheena Easton made shrewd investments in fish and property respectively. U2's Bono was less well advised

Don't... invest in something you know nothing about. In the late Seventies and early Eighties, Stig Anderson, the late Abba manager, had set up various companies to help reduce the group's 85 per cent tax burden. Since they were selling records behind the Iron Curtain, the group and Anderson started to accept payment in kind, anything from potatoes to crude oil. Pretty soon, they had a company called Pot Oil listed on the Stockholm stock market. Following a sudden drop in the average price of a barrel, the whole house of cards collapsed and an investigation into Abba's affairs was launched. An out-of-court settlement with the Swedish Inland Revenue saved the group further blushes.

Don't form your own label. The rock 'n' roll road is littered with the white elephants of vanity labels. John Lennon once told an interviewer: "If Apple goes on losing money at the same rate, all of us will be broke in six months." Others didn't learn. Even with Jimi Hendrix on board, The Who couldn't keep Track afloat. The Stones' manager, Andrew Long Oldham, failed with Immediate and the Stones started their own famous tongue-decorated imprint on which their records (and only theirs) still appear. Elton John's Rocket, Gary Numan's Numa Records, Mick Fleetwood's Zoo, Paul Weller's Respond and Dave Stewart's Amorous have all floundered. Led Zeppelin's Swansong, Frank Sinatra's Reprise and Madonna's Maverick are the exceptions to the rule - though they were as much an attempt by majors to placate their acts with new business ventures.

Don't get the family involved. Dad Buster Pearson notoriously mismanaged Five Star's money, while in 1989, after amassing his books, Billy Joel had to fire his manager and former brother-in-law, Frank Weber. Mind you, Ozzy Osbourne's wife, Sharon, has put him back on the straight and narrow.

Don't build your own recording studio, unless it's a small one in the basement of your house. With the cost of maintenance and upgrading gear, you'll lose out. Particularly, don't buy one in central London. Paul Weller had to sell off Solid Bond near Marble Arch.

Don't give a percentage of your future earnings to the label you're trying to leave, unless it's the only way out. Soul Asylum guaranteed points to A&M before moving onto Sony and Polydor came to a similar agreement with Fire before signing to Island.

Don't finance a bad movie out of your own pocket, unless it's a tax write-off. Chris Rea lost £1.5m on *La Passione*, one of the worst movies ever made. George Harrison was doing well out of HandMade Films (*The Life of Brian*, *Fame*, *Barnabits*) until his partner, Dennis O'Brien, handled affairs so badly that Harrison eventually won a judgment against him for £5.7m.

Don't get divorced. Rod Stewart,

Mick Jagger, Mick Fleetwood and countless others are still paying their ex-wives for it.

Don't part with your manager. He'll want a cut of future earnings. The Spice Girls had to give Simon Fuller £1m, and The Rolling Stones and The Beatles paid through the nose to get rid of Allen Klein.

Don't release too many dodgy compilations. They will affect the value of your catalogue later. New converts to the Rolling Stones and The Kinks never know which album to buy.

Don't buy cars, especially if you don't drive. The late Who drummer Keith Moon would crash anything (Rolls Royce, milk float, hovercraft) without even leaving his property. Mick Fleetwood couldn't resist collecting Jaguars and AC Cobras. Jason Kaye of Jamiroquai owns four Ferraris, three BMWs, two Mercedes and one Aston Martin. Trouble is, his friends keep borrowing them and crashing them. At least Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason is sensible enough to rent out his Ferrari 250GTO and the collectible BMWs, Porsches and Jaguars he also owns.

Don't smash up equipment you can't afford to replace. The Who took years to clear debts accumulated while demolishing guitars on stage. At *T in the Park*, Symposium wrecked £2000 worth of gear. Their fee for appearing there: £1000.

Don't go shopping. Elton John must have spent millions on clothes, spectacles, fine art and records.

Don't buy a football club. Elton John is never going to make a penny out of his investment in Watford FC, and even the football-mad Rod Stewart stuck to supporting Scotland. The foolhardy Jim Kerr of Simple Minds could be involved in a bid to buy Celtic.

Don't buy horses. Ron Wood lost a packet on Acer, a racehorse he acquired with the smoocher player, Jimmy White.

Don't adopt the lifestyle of a world megastar if you're a big fish in a small pond. Gary Glitter and Status Quo squandered millions trying to lead the life of Riley when they were only attractions in the UK.

Don't get involved in litigation. Just after the success of *Born To Run*, Bruce Springsteen's career was on hold for nearly a year as he tried to free himself from the clutches of Mike Appel. A settlement out of court did the trick in 1977.

Don't sample the wrong song. Allen Klein keeps the royalties from The Verve's "Bittersweet Symphony", which samples an instrumental version of "The Last Time" under his copyright. And don't plagiarise a major hit. UB 40 lost a lawsuit over "Don't Break My Heart", while George Harrison was judged to have copied The Chiffons' "He's So Fine" with "My Sweet Lord" and lost half a million dollars.

Don't do drugs. How do you think Mick Fleetwood lost track of all his money?

Good looking



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PLENTY OF Asian musicians are adept in Western classical idioms, but Western musicians rarely return the compliment. That may have to change as an emerging generation of Asian composers finds new modes of expression that, on the evidence of Guo Weijing's double bill of one-act operas at the Almeida, will extend the range not only of performers, but of opera itself.

In James MacDonald's well imagined stagings, both *Night Banquet* and *Wolf Cub Village* show a highly original sense of operatic possibility. Guo Weijing has written extensively for film and tele-

The femme is not so fatale

CLASSICAL

CARMEN
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
BARBICAN HALL

the allure, the passion, the obsession. The secret of the world's favourite opera's success. Which is why the London Symphony Orchestra, under its principal conductor Sir Colin Davis, was wise to schedule not one but three concert performances. Which is why it still managed to sell out Barbican Hall on World Cup final night. Which is why Carmen is so truly international, why she travels so well.

"She", on this occasion, was Olga Borodina, a star of the Kirov Opera - a Carmen, if you like, from a cold climate. And my goodness, didn't we feel the chill. There was nothing, but nothing, of the heat and dust about her. Dressed to kill in black lace, sequined shoes and a strategically placed rose, she

travelling" this gypsy had done was between engagements. A class act, a well-managed nightclub turn. Carmen of the Rainbow Room.

This is a terrific voice, make no mistake - a flexible, versatile voice well-schooled and well-practised in the highly specialised art of "Carmenitis".

Borodina had listened to, and worked hard at perfecting, the gamut of Carmen-esque effects - the nasal French vowels, the croony intonations, the glottal stops, the smoky half-voicings. And she took her

time accommodating them. Her *Habemus* and *Seguidilla* were showstoppers in quite the wrong sense. Artful in quite the wrong sense. Carmen is nothing if not elemental. Some where between Siberia and Seville, Borodina had mislead the character.

Which left that mummy's boy Don Jose with much of the credibility and all of the stage. Jose Cura seized it. His charisma is almost the equal of his type but that is the way audiences like their tenors - and this one is swashy of looks and voice. When Cura turns it on (and he did here, he really did), you can hear and see why he is in such demand. The baritone colour of the voice is more than a match for the physique. The two do not often go to

gether. But what I wouldn't give for a few extra colours, for some phrasal elegance, for real piano singing as opposed to just the occasional *mezzo-voce*. Not since Domingo have we really had it all.

But at least Cura represented a burst of Latin temperament in an evening dominated by Slavs. Andrea Daukova will be a better Micaela when she can, in every sense, extend her vocal reach (it is a little short, a little frayed, at the top: the aria was quite a stretch). Nikolay Dobrev (Esteban) will not be a better anything until he learns to sing in tune. An inexplicable piece of casting this.

No, it was the Brits. Susan Gritt (a feisty Frasquita) and Neal Davies (Duncaire), who

stole the honours for singing French as it is spoke.

They and the LSO Chorus, whose assorted bands of gypsies, soldiers, and cigarette girls (yes, a few fag-ash Lills among the sopranos) were projected with exciting immediacy and amplitude.

But that is the big advantage of a concert performance. To hear Sir Colin Davis and the LSO really splash this colourful score across the platform was the greatest pleasure of the evening. The woodwind playing was a joy from start to finish. Those are the voices I shall remember. Bizet ruled, France won.

Carmen continues tonight and Friday. Box office 0171-382 7000

EDWARD SICKERTSON

Head east for western promise

OPERA

NIGHT BANQUET AND
WOLF CUB VILLAGE
ALMEIDA THEATRE
LONDON

vision, which may not earn him much respect in the West, but has apparently taught him how to delineate his dramas economically. His chamber-size orchestra, superbly conducted by Brad Cohen, consists mostly of Western instruments; the players often required to extend their techniques with "exotic" stylings: lavish gissandi, plucked piano strings, wordless vocal ulula-

tions and so on. With four percussionists in an ensemble of 17, the writing for the percussion is particularly rich and diverse.

For *Night Banquet* (here receiving its world premiere), Guo Weijing also includes a pipa (Chinese lute), played with wild virtuosity by Wu Man, who is on stage for much of the opera. If the singers are not wholly at home with the microtonal inflections of Chinese singing, their characterisations are unfailingly intense.

In *Wolf Cub Village*, Nigel Robson plays a madman convinced that everyone he comes in contact with wants to devour

him. As all good conspiracy theorists know, the fact that you are paranoid does not mean they are not out to get you, and this madman's dementia contains a great deal of good and common sense. Robson's performance is painful to watch, but it is impossible to take your eyes off it.

So, too, Geoffrey Moses's scholar-poet in *Night Banquet*, who sets out, by means of prolonged debauchery, to disqualify himself from the corruption of political office. As Moses languishes in raddled dissolution, his favourite concubine (the excellent Yvonne Barclay) asks: "Did you need

to do all that to avoid becoming Prime Minister?" An acerbic comment on political life, both Eastern and Western.

The operas are sung in Chinese, and translations are incorporated not as surtitles that annoyingly take the eye away from the stage, but as part of the *mise-en-scène*: on a screen tucked behind the poet's couch in *Night Banquet*, and in Jeff Sutton's atmospheric video installation that embodies the madman's turmoil in *Wolf Cub Village*.

Such imaginative touches typify MacDonald's direct but subtle productions. A Western composer attempting what

this double bill pulls off so triumphantly might be accused of the heinous crime of orientalism, and, who knows, maybe a Chinese perspective might find Guo Weijing guilty of occidentalism.

To these Western eyes, though, the results are witty, engrossing and wonderfully operatic. There are not many new British operas you can say that about.

Further performances of both productions at the Almeida Theatre, London N1, tonight, Friday and Saturday. Booking: 0171-359 4404

NICK KIMBERLEY

Be afraid. Be very afraid

It's a decade since La Fura dels Baus last appeared in London. But they're not something you'd easily forget. By Judith Palmer

One thousand people are herded, bewildered, into the pitch dark of an east London warehouse. Shuffling, excitable, curious, they edge their way through waves of smoke, deeper into the wall of pumping techno, and wait. An hour later they will emerge, separated from their friends, mud-splattered, exhausted, exhilarated. The legendary Catalan performance troupe La Fura dels Baus is back in town.

It has been 10 years since La Fura was last in London. Then, punters arrived at the ICA and were taken on special charabancs to the regenerated Docklands. This time, we made our own way to Bromley-by-Bow, filing under the torred roar of the Blackwall Tunnel approach road, via the Tesco Superstore car park, over the glistening green-weeded creek to the closest isolation of Three Mills Island Studios.

Follow the frock coats and mutton-chop whiskers as 180 Japanese actors in bustles pick their way over the cobbles. You are on the right path. Mike Leigh is filming his new *Gilbert & Sullivan* biopic here.

Weave past the oast-house, the mill, the gin distillery and the laboratory where they discovered cellulose, to Studio Five, where they filmed *Kavanagh QC*, the dictator-baby car ad and the Cantona Eurostar commercial. Yes, that kind of studio. Not studio theatre. Aircraft hanger theatre.

Enjoy the journey; it is part of the experience. In any case, La Fura dels Baus is not so much about where you go as how you got there. "Feel first. Meaning comes later," says Fura boss Pera Tantina. "You experience conventional theatre with your eyes and mind. We want you to experience our shows with your stomach."

More than a million people worldwide have had their entrails manipulated by Tantina's company in the 20 years since it was founded. Three friends from the tiny village of Moia met six more performers in Barcelona and started putting together anarchic travelling street shows in 1979. Shows and venues got bigger - factories, cathedrals, stations - until, in 1992, Fura massed 1,000 performers to stage the opening ceremony of the Barcelona Olympics. Now, apparently, Manolo wants them for the Dome.

La Fura dels Baus translates as the ferret from the small smelly stream in Moia. "It means nothing," says Tantina. "It is the sound and feel of the words that is important."

The same goes for the name of this production, *Mones*. "Nothing is fixed," says the director, Beth Escudé i Galles. "The audience can choose their own meaning."

And so into the dark. Bodies pushing bodies into the void. "Where are you?" "I'm here. Who's that?" "What's that?" A glimmer of flame in the distance, and we edge in-



Tolling bells, wafts of frankincense, reeks of sulphur, showers of water, flour and sawdust turn the floor to slime. Thank heavens for sensible shoes...

Nicola Kurn

stinctively towards it. Naked people above us are burning something. Noise, smoke, disorientation. Heads turn. Something is happening on the ground over there. We can't see, so press closer towards the thumping sounds. Elbows, feet and other people's shoulders are in the way. Then "Wargh!" We can't get away fast enough. The crowd scatters. Huge, egg-shaped wooden barrels are tumbling towards us, and we run.

Bare-bottomed medieval types in grubby singlets howl and holler

through the crowd, with flaming firebrands in their hands. The crowd splits, then splits again as we flee from these mad men and women. Wooden tumbrels, metal lighting rigs and telegraph poles hurtle by us and at us from all directions. Madwoman One swings a chain round her head like a Highland hammer-thrower, Madwoman Two screams and jabs out her torch, dripping hot wax on to a madman's shaved head.

Tolling bells, wafts of frankincense, reeks of sulphur, showers of

flour, of water, of sawdust, turn the floor to slime. Thank heavens for sensible shoes. Lepers and alms-seekers process in mock-ecclesiastical rapture, and how readily we join their processions. Twisting bundles are laid on the floor, bandaged baby parcels writhing like giant maggots and letting off a cacophony of wails.

Amid fiery explosions the troupe hauls poles into a circle, hanging aloft and juddering a convulsive dance; a central, up-ended figure has

her pregnant belly. Eggs fly, chickens are bitten off in an Ozzy Osborne snarl, and the seething, primordial jabber of it all begins to lose momentum. Smash the shell and this hard-boiled performance turns out to be rather soft and yolkly.

"Soft. Far too soft," agrees Escudé i Galles. "They've been on holiday for three days since we left Copenhagen. Tomorrow we crack the whip at them."

This first night has been tricky, adjusting to the bigger space and

tougher audience. What is more,

there has been no time for the hour of Aikido the company routinely uses to build energy and focus itself before a show. The performers are supposed to empty their minds before they can empty the audience's.

Tantina says: "Fear is an important part of the show. You need to break away from the mind. In conventional theatre, you pay for a piece of seat. This is your property. No one can touch you there. You are safe. We need to change the audi-

ence's sense of security, in order to open their minds and let them feel."

"It is not important whether the audience like it. What is important is that they remember the show a year later. The most terrible thing is to go to see something which you've forgotten in a week."

No chance of that.

Greenwich & Docklands Festival, Three Mills Island Studios, Hancock Road, Bromley-by-Bow, London E13. To 19 July (0171-833 4444)

Just blew in from the plaguey city...

THREE ARE very few subjects that could not, in theory, provide the basis for a musical, but bubonic plague must be pretty high up on the list of those that would have difficulty surviving even a moment of idle contemplation. Stephen Clark - the lyricist behind the relaunched *Martin Guerre* and writer of *Takeaway*, the acclaimed slice-of-Chinese life recently seen at the Lyric - has clearly thought long and hard about *Eyam*, the Derbyshire village near where he grew up. The village shut itself off from the outside world after being stricken by the plague of 1665, a misfortune that was later attributed to a rat flea in a parcel of cloth from London. The dramatic possibilities presented by this collective act of self-confinement must have seemed good enough to outweigh any hesitations about taste in the writer's mind.

From afar, *Eyam* might even have looked like a musical Eden. And it is as a rural idyll that we first see the village. Like expendable extras in a disaster movie, the inhabitants sing away as they garland lupins and barehalls into intricate well-dresses to be offered up in time-honoured thanks to the water that sustains them. Into this paradise creeps the oleaginous new recruit William Mompesson (earnest-eyed Peter Frentice) with wife and kids in tow. His congregation's immediate disdain soon ruptures into outright hostility when people start dropping like flies. A few cling to the superstition that this wolf-in-shepherd's clothing has infected his flock and seek to scapegoat him. The majority are deeply resistant to his swift insistence that they martyr themselves to the contagion rather than let it spread. The journey that both sides make,

ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

as the Grim Reaper goes about his work from mutual distrust to a more Christian love and understanding, might have jolted an audience into engaging with the tragedy. But despite the best efforts of the director, Clive Paget, to create striking choreographed moments, a helping hand from Stephen Sondheim and a cast bursting with energy, Clark's libretto and Andrew Peggie's rock-inclined score restate the dilemmas in the blandest way for some two-and-a-half hours.

As though afraid to produce the equivalent of "Auschwitz the musical", the production avoids any overt depiction of the plague - there is not a hubo, pustule or blemish in sight.

"Was that a moth?" By the time you get to the closing sentiments - "I never thought making plans for tomorrow would seem so exciting" - you will be lucky not to feel nauseous.

At the New End, there's another non-starter, although the idea behind *The Curse of Tittishammon* is that it celebrates its own living deadness. Armed with a one-man special effects department (able Mark Barlow), a cast read through a Seventies spoof Hammer horror movie script by Michael Armstrong that never got made. The result is a nightmare hybrid - something between a live radio play and a student revue. The idea that a theatre should be the repository for such junk is the evening's only sick joke.

Eyam, Bridewell, EC4 (0171-936 3456); *The Curse of Tittishammon*, New End, NW3 (0171-794 0022)

The lyrics equally prefer saccharine triteness to any ugliness. In what should be a key opening number, the first victim, the dressmaker, spends excruciating minutes singing the praises of his cloth, repeatedly wondering:



Ellen O'Grady as Joan in 'Eyam'

DEBUT

THE ACTOR: Eileen Atkins

THE TIME: 1953

THE PLACE: Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, London

THE ROLE: Hippolyta in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'



Labour's Lost, for which I got a mention in the *Evening Standard*.

I happened to overhear Atkins discussing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the designer. There was another girl called Amanda Fox in the company and he said: "Well now, what are we going to do about Hippolyta?" Amanda's got the body and no voice and Eileen's got the voice and no body." Later he told me he had decided to give me the part. I said: "What are you going to do about my body?" He replied: "We're going to build you up. We're going to give you a bosom!"

Unfortunately, we were rained off for the rest of the season so I never got to play the part, but it was an idyllic summer which I always look back on fondly. I thought life was always going to be like this and that work was going to come easily, but it dried up and I never met anyone quite like Robert Atkins again. I didn't get regular work until I was 27. I had no idea then what hell it was going to be.

He obviously thought he'd never hear from me again.

It just so happened that he gave me the Shakespeare prize at the Guildhall School of Music in my last year. He remembered me and invited me to come and work at Regent's Park. I was 19. I had a walk-on in *Twelfth Night* and Jacqueretta, the country wench in *Love's*

Pass notes in the game of love

THEATRE

WHAT YOU GET AND WHAT YOU EXPECT

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH LONDON

shortlisted for a potentially life-changing architectural competition to design the first monument on the moon. His rival, the unscrupulous, smooth-talking Robert, all Nehru collars and slicked-back hair, cunningly taunts him with tales of fancy backstage finagling on the dinner-party circuit. Robert knows how to play the game, and that's what this is all about.

Robert has seduced Madame Kanter, the no-lapels, no-mercy civil servant in charge of the competition.

Married Philip, meanwhile, is thrown by the discovery of his boyhood lover, Hector, in a key position to influence the outcome of the competition.

Besser translated Stoppard's *Arcadia* into French, so it is no surprise to discover dialogue-heavy scenes in which ideas and aphorisms spiral upwards. It could have been an arid evening of intellectual plate-spinning but, for the most part, the production is an intriguing success.

Tim Shortall's set is the last word in modish, minimalist chic, with its gleaming steel wall, button-backed double doors and two curved steel benches decked with crushed velvet cushions. The actors are similarly well groomed, notably Simon Dutton, relishing every moment as the repellent Robert. Jessica Turner is scintil-

lating as Madame Kanter. It is a high-status role that could all too easily be played on one note, but Turner brings an astonishing range of light and shade to the part. Her hilariously withering disdain makes Sigourney Weaver in *Working Girl* look like a playful kitten.

The self-conscious dialogue has a tendency to bounce back and forth too easily, leading you to the suspicion that director Thierry Harcourt has been seduced by the surface. Some of the allusive, brittle exchanges have more layers than he uncovers, but there are moments of real depth.

The high point is the scene where Hector (actor Alex McSweeney) describes how, if you sat still in one place, everyone you have ever known would eventually pass by. Throughout the

tense speech he moves painfully and inexorably towards Philip, his lost love, who cannot bear to look at him, before slowly slipping his hand inside Philip's shirt. It is desperately sad and extremely erotic.

Much of the success of the evening is ascribable to the pin-sharp translation by Jeremy Sams. His trademark wit is there in abundance, but it never intrudes. Post-coital sexual puns about spreadsheets and things which "just mount up" are sewn into the fabric, and the momentum of the phrasing means that this high-wire comedy manages to be both funny and provocative.

This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

DAVID BENEDICT

"WE'RE IN bedroom farce," remarks Natalie, the central character's wife, after some surprise extramarital sex. We are, however, a million miles away from Ray Cooney.

Despite this being a comedy of sexual to-ing and fro-ing between two warring architects, their lovers and their potential employers, the playwright Jean Marie Besser has more in common with Yasmina Reza, also French, the author of the smash-hit *Art*.

Although written several years earlier, *What You Get and What You Expect* simply is not the sort of philosophical comedy that is written here. Besser may be writing about men jockeying for power positions, but he is also investigating power and male sexuality.

Tense but patient Philip has been

Eileen Atkins is starring in *The Unexpected Man*, 8pm, Duchess Theatre, WC2 (Phone 0171-494 5075)



Bhutto denies kickback charges

BENAZIR BHUTTO, the former prime minister of Pakistan, appeared in court yesterday to answer charges that she received more than £2m in kickbacks on a government contract for hum-dred Polish tractors.

Mrs Bhutto, 46, denies the charges, which have been brought against her by a special investigating commission set up by the present government in Pakistan. They claim that Mrs Bhutto and her husband earned hundreds of millions of pounds from corruption before being dismissed from power 18 months ago. Three other corruption charges have been registered against Mrs Bhutto by the investigators. She denies all of them.

In violent scenes outside the court, in the north-eastern city of Lahore, supporters of Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party, were baton-charged by police. Twenty-five people were injured, one seriously.

The demonstration was the first of a series that party leaders said were planned for the coming weeks.

Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, and his Cabinet have been widely criticised in Pakistan for mishandling the economy since the country's nuclear tests nearly two months ago.

Despite still retaining a massive majority in parliament, popular support for Mr Sharif has been severely eroded by recently introduced economic measures, which have hit the middle class and the poor.

In the past week strikes have gripped the country. In the north-western city of Peshawar police used tear gas to disperse rickshaw drivers protesting against the price of fuel while in Karachi and the east

BY JASON BURKE
in Karachi

of the country thousands of retailers have shut their shops to demonstrate against the planned extension of sales tax.

Mr Sharif has always been seen as the champion of Pakistan's commercial classes and to lose their support is a serious blow.

Speaking outside the court yesterday Ms Bhutto said that the time had come for a broad-based coalition administration. "The formation of a national government is the only solution to the problems facing Pakistan," she said.

At the weekend Ms Bhutto signalled to other opposition groups that she was interested in working together to oust Mr Sharif.

Talking to reporters at Karachi airport on her arrival from Dubai on Sunday evening she offered to negotiate with the Mutahida Quami Movement, until recently allies of Mr Sharif and bitter enemies of Ms Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari.

The official said the nuns, employed as nurses by a char-

A HIGHLANDER of Yemen, where the number of guns is estimated to be more than three times the population of 16 million Patricia Aithie

Three nuns shot dead in Yemen

A GUNMAN who had fought in Bosnia shot dead three Catholic nuns from Mother Teresa's order in Yemen yesterday.

"A man suspected to be an Islamic extremist opened fire on three nuns and killed them instantly," said an official from the governorate of Hodeida, 140 miles west of the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

The official said the nuns, employed as nurses by a char-

ity, were killed on their way to work. Two of them were from India and one from the Philippines.

Residents detained the gunman immediately after the incident as he tried to escape. They handed him over to the police.

About a dozen nuns work in the medical profession in Hodeida, a Red Sea port. "The

going on... He confessed to the crime and said he would go to heaven," the official said.

The suspect, Abdillah al-Nasher, 22, from Sanaa, had said during questioning that he killed the three nurses because they were "preaching Christianity".

The official added that the suspect had fought in the Bosnian conflict as a volunteer in 1992. He said Nasheri had lived in Bosnia since 1992, had

acquired Bosnian nationality and had married a Bosnian woman.

Many Muslims went to fight alongside their brethren in the Bosnian war.

Residents said it was the first report of violence in Yemen against the nuns, who have been providing humanitarian help in the impoverished state for several decades.

More than 100 foreigners, including diplomats but mainly

tourists, have been kidnapped by disgruntled tribesmen in Yemen since 1992. Most were released unharmed.

Guns, mainly Kalashnikov automatic rifles, are openly carried in Yemen, one of the poorest Arab countries.

Unofficial estimates put the number of firearms in the country at 50 million, more than three times the population of 16 million.

—Reuters

Serbs claim victory at Kosovo road link

SERBIAN SECURITY forces announced yesterday they had captured a stronghold of Kosovo Albanian guerrillas in a campaign to regain control of main transport routes across the province.

Serbian state television broadcast what it described as footage of ex-Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) positions in Lepusnik, "a notorious terrorist base", which it said security forces had won back on Sunday.

The footage showed

trenches, ammunition, communication equipment, a heavy machine-gum, rebel uniforms and a makeshift surgery.

The Serb Media Centre in Pristina, the Kosovo regional capital, said the security forces had unblocked most of the Pristina-Pec road at the weekend, eliminating several dozen KLA barricades along the way.

If true, Lepusnik's capture would underline a shift in fortunes for the KLA, which has seized up to half of Kosovo

since February only to get knocked back by a recent Serbian counter-offensive.

The KLA's momentum began to falter when it was repelled by superior Serbian firepower in an attempt to take its first big town, Orshovac, a week ago.

The Serbian offensive has coincided with an increase in shooting incidents along Serbia's border with northern Albania, a backwater used by the KLA to muster fighters and weapons.

The Albanian Interior Ministry said Serbian troops fired on the Albanian police building at the border checkpoint in Morini early on Sunday, then tried to shoot their way through.

In Tirana, the Albanian government denounced Serbia's "provocation" of Albanian forces along its border with Kosovo and called on Belgrade to respect its territorial integrity. Tirana said Serb artillery shells had landed on its

territory four times in just over a week, branding the incidents as attempts to engulf it in a wider war.

In Brussels, it was announced that three senior officials from the European Union will go to Belgrade today for talks with the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Zivadin Jovanovic, about the Kosovo crisis. A request to meet Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic remained unanswered.

—Reuters/AP

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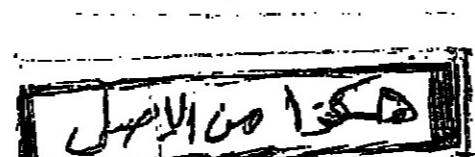
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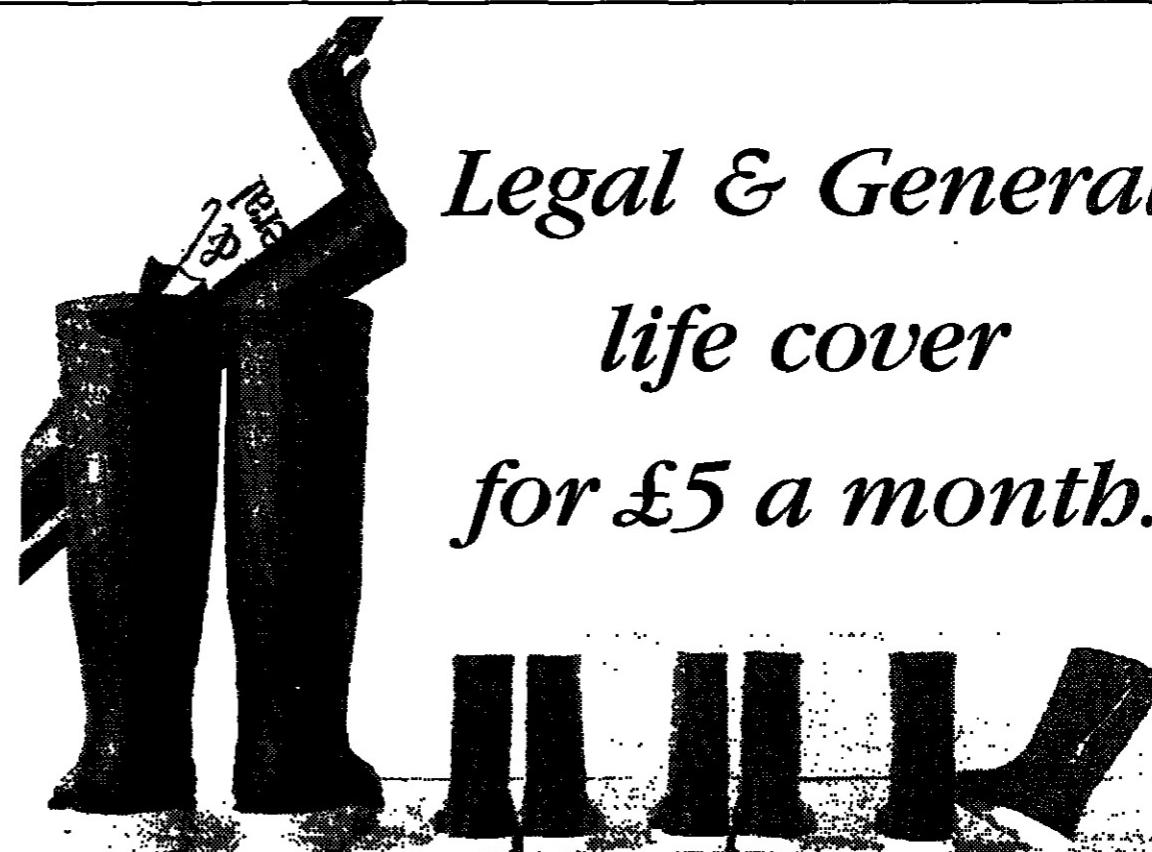
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The right shades for you

Sunglasses always look great. As long as you're a model, that is. So we took a selection of frames on to the street to find out how mere mortals looked through glasses darkly. By Melanie Rickey. Photographs by Donna Trope



Mrs Peretti in tortoise shells, £89, Gucci



The Hon Mrs Laura Brand in plastic aviators, £29, by Fabris Lane



Tom Trope in plastic wraps, £97, D&G



Abiola in gold wire frames, £99.99, Police



John Lewis in frames, £150, Kirk Originals



Leo in "Dean", £225, Kirk Originals



Sylvia in black cat-eyes, £85, Valentino



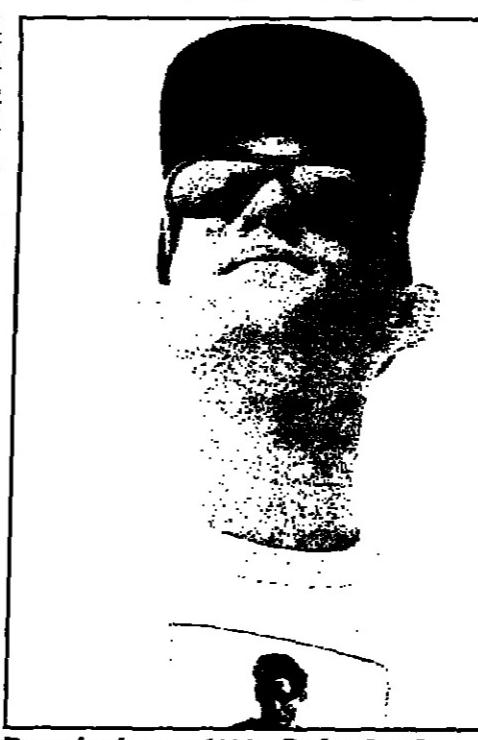
Shirley Grubman in navy, £100, Björn Borg



Leo in wire rims, £127, Calvin Klein



Mrs Brand in visor, £34.99, Storm



Perou in chrome, £64.99, Red or Dead



Ruth Williams in two-tones, £99, Fabris Lane

Everybody knows that finding the "right" pair of sunglasses is a lot more difficult than it looks. First you have to try on about 10 pairs to find which style best suits your face shape. Then colour and adaptability have to be taken into account. The last and, for some, most important factor is "fashionability".

What is in fashion for sunglasses in 1998 is as hard to work out as a cryptic crossword. Last year men went crazy for sports shades from Adidas, Oakley and Nike, while women opted en masse for the oversized and glamorous Jackie O look.

Within just a year things have changed drastically. Chuck out those silver wraps - they're over and done. Jackie O? No.

This year sunglasses fashion is all about revisiting and revamping the heady days of Halston, disco fever, and Seventies chic as gold-rimmed aviators with a graduating dark-to-light-brown tint have begun to appear on fashionable faces (see Gucci, Police,

Fabris Lane, Boots, Woolworths or Red or Dead). But that is just for real fashion junkies. According to Angela Campbell, an optician with three stores in the Manchester area, the sunglasses-buying public simply will not accept all the trends and would rather pick from a more subtle blend of factors. "It's all down to the quality of the frames and lenses," she says. Indeed, with the proliferation of fashion designers who have recently put their name to sunglasses (Jil Sander and D&G being the newest arrivals), the look of the frames is just the starting-point.

The most frequently asked questions in shops that sell sunglasses are about protection from the sun's harmful rays. Fortunately, legislation introduced last month means that these queries are unnecessary. Now all sunglasses manufactured to European standards will say so: look for a little "CE", (which means "conforme européen") stamped on to the frame.

This year sunglasses fashion is all about revisiting and revamping the heady days of Halston, disco fever, and Seventies chic as gold-rimmed aviators with a graduating dark-to-light-brown tint have begun to appear on fashionable faces (see Gucci, Police,

do not worry if you don't find the "CE" just yet - the new frames will take a while to filter into the shops. Back to fashion. Angela Campbell used to sell lots of specialist sunglasses brands, such as Ray Ban, but the designers have taken over. "They have definitely become the easiest way of buying into a designer label," she says. "Gucci shoes cost nearly £400 but the sunglasses cost just over £100." This summer belongs to the diffusion range D&G, she says. "They are different from everyone else's; the shapes are fantastic and they suit everybody."

Sunglasses Hut chain and the opticians David Clulow agree. And how do they know? Because D&G's practically sold out as soon as they were put on display. In fact they have probably defined the look of summer 1998. The shapes are sleek, refined and oblong rather than rounded; while the frames are metallic, not chunky and plastic.

Another success story is Fabris Lane, the Anglo-Italian company that launched in 1994, and which now sells its diffusion line Fabris Lane Italia in 2,000

Boots stores across the UK, as well as designing ranges for Next, Warehouse and Oasis. It also has a hand-made range of 30 exclusive styles. It produces a "high summer" range (it has just hit the shops) which, says director Fiona Lane, is "what we feel is very hot and very now". And they are. The quality is there, the look is there, but the best thing is the price from £29. These are fashionable sunglasses that can be worn without guilt for just one season.

To celebrate the August release of the film "Avengers" CK Calvin Klein eye wear has launched a pair of shades inspired by Emma Peel. Called "Avenger", they are bug-shaped and have the CK logo stamped into the side arm in dark silver. We have five pairs in black with smoke-tinted lenses for the first five readers to send a postcard to: "The Independent", Fashion Avenger offer, 1 Canada Square, London, E14 5DL. The "Avenger" sunglasses, cost approximately £70, will be available from the first week in August in stores nationwide. Enquiries: 0800 722 020

NAMES ON THE FRAMES

Police: Larger Boots (01923 249 491)

Valentino: 01423 538 005

Gucci: 01223 538 005

Red or Dead: Vision Express, branches nationwide (0800 73809)

Fabris Lane: Boots and Harvey Nichols (0181 974 1642)

Storm: Carnaby Street (0171 388 6656)

Kirk Originals: 36 Earham Street, WC2 (0171 240 5065)

Björn Borg: David Clulow opticians, 185 Kings Road, SW3 (0181 364 4040)

Calvin Klein: Dolland and Aitchison (0800 722 020)

D&G by Marcolin: Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge SW1, (01635 529 997)



John Lewis in aviators, £79.90, Police



Mrs Peretti in perspex, £70, Red or Dead



Ruth Williams in aviators, £79.99, Police



Sylvia in silver frames, £195, D&G



Tom Trope in wraps, £97, D&G by Marcolin

MIDWEEK MONEY

Your life is your business

It pays to draw up an annual report of your personal finances. By Andy Couchman

BUY SHARES in any company and you will soon become familiar with its annual report and accounts. The glossy brochure may be a masterpiece of illusion, an art-fact directors seek to find ever more inventive ways of disguising poor company performance, but essentially it should present a snapshot of its financial position, a comparison over time, and a strategy for the future.

These aims are just as valid for personal finances. With the ready availability of personal computers and the ease of use of modern spreadsheet programmes, producing your own annual report and accounts can be fun, as well as an informative - or sobering - experience. In essence, a good report and accounts boils down to three key areas: profit and loss account, balance sheet and directors' report.

The profit and loss account records incomings and outgoings over the year.

Start with your salary or wages. You can get this from your bank statements or direct from your pay slips, which means you can also check to see that you have paid the right amounts of tax and National Insurance. Add any other income such as interest on savings, share dividends and so on. Do not forget other income - perhaps you received birthday money, or won money in the lottery, for example - but always make sure you record all income, either pre- or post-tax.

Measuring expenditure is harder because it comes in

smaller chunks and, if you want to be really precise, can take a long time to work out. If you do, the surprise is always how much is spent on really nothing at all, or on "vices" such as tobacco, alcohol and chocolate.

More illuminating is the balance sheet. This shows the capital value of all your assets on a particular day. You can measure:

■ Savings. How much you have and, if you have more than one account, how much interest each has paid out. You may have to refer to your passbook or get a statement from the bank or building society.

■ Investments. Shares, unit trusts and single premium insurance bonds can usually be valued from the prices pages of *The Independent*. The price at which you sell is called the bid price. If two prices are shown the lower (bid) price is the one to use. If you have older insurance bonds you may have to ask your insurer for a valuation. Watch out for investments where dividends are reinvested; the number of shares held will go up, so, again, ask to get the latest figures.

■ Life assurance. We want to measure two things here: the current sum assured, which shows how much you are worth on your death, and any current surrender value. The sum assured will be shown on your policy schedule, but the cash or surrender value will have to be obtained from the insurer.

■ Pensions. If you have a personal or executive pension, ask your insurer how much it is

worth, and its value when you die. If you are a member of a company scheme, your pension may only have an individual value if you transfer to another scheme. You can ask, though, what it would yield on death or on ill-health retirement, and how much pension you can expect on retirement.

■ Property and other assets. Most of us have a rough idea of what our homes may be worth, or ask your estate agent for a free valuation. The value of your property is its market value, allowing up to 5 per cent for selling costs, less any outstanding mortgage.

Making a note of the value of all your other possessions can help highlight whether your contents insurance cover is

adequate. While you are at it, check that your buildings insurance is not too low. There,

the figure to insure for is the property's rebuilding cost, which may be higher or lower than its market valuation. Your mortgage lender or estate agent may be able to advise you on the right level to insure for.

Once you know how much - or little - you are worth, you can produce your director's report: what you plan to do about it. You may find, for example, that you have too little life assurance, that your pension is inadequate or that you have too much: money on deposit and not enough in long-term investments. Now may be the time to get out of poorly performing shares that you have held for

years. If you have a personal or executive pension, ask your insurer how much it is

worth, and its value when you die. If you are a member of a company scheme, your pension may only have an individual value if you transfer to another scheme. You can ask, though, what it would yield on death or on ill-health retirement, and how much pension you can expect on retirement.

■ Property and other assets. Most of us have a rough idea of what our homes may be worth, or ask your estate agent for a free valuation. The value of your property is its market value, allowing up to 5 per cent for selling costs, less any outstanding mortgage.

Making a note of the value of all your other possessions can help highlight whether your contents insurance cover is

long; or perhaps it is worth being speculative with money that you can afford to lose.

A professional financial adviser can help you to manage your affairs better, but the advantage of preparing your own report and accounts is that you may better understand the dynamics of your financial situation when discussing options with them. Updating every few months can be fun - especially if the value of your "company" is rising.

As a planning exercise, it is good enough for our best managed companies, it should be good enough for you too, even if your own accounts are devoid of glossy pictures and over-optimistic forecasts, and the only fat cat is the family pet.

Jim is a freelance writer. At 40, despite having been in his profession for several years, he has no pension.

A few years ago, Jim bought a property jointly with his partner Mary. They have had to invest significant amounts of money into the property in order to refurbish it. There is still some ongoing work, but that is now tailing off.

Jim has been fortunate in having had fairly continuous work throughout his career.

However, he is aware that as a freelance person, this may not always be the case and he could face periods of time when he has low or nil earnings. As such, he is concerned about ongoing commitments that he could have to meet when times are slow.

Jim knows that he needs to look at the question of his pension. He is aware that he has left it quite late, but he has found the whole area just too daunting to face and it has been easy to put it off to another day. He now feels that he must grasp the nettle however unpleasant.

Jim's story is not untypical. The fact that I regard pensions as fascinating is regarded as mildly perverse by my tolerant and indulgent clients. Many clients have put off dealing their pension longer than they should. It can get out of hand as they get more knotted up in their minds because they understand that the longer they leave it the more expensive it is going to be.

As a planning exercise, it is good enough for our best managed companies, it should be good enough for you too, even if your own accounts are devoid of glossy pictures and over-optimistic forecasts, and the only fat cat is the family pet.

Part of the problem is undoubtedly the jargon that surrounds financial products, even though the literature is much better than it used to be. Partly it is that retirement conjures up such gloomy pictures. In our society we do not view old age positively.

Fortunately, Jim has some savings behind him - £10,000 in a building society. This is after making allowance for the tax he will have to pay and after the most urgent refurbishments on his property are taken care of.

We are planning for Jim's retirement over a 25-year period, as he intends to continue writing until he

is 65. As Jim has left it so late and has no pension planning at all, he will need to save a significant amount of his income. At the moment he is earning £20,000 a year and expects that he will continue to do so. We worked out that he will need to put 20 per cent of his income - that is, £2,000 a year - into his pension. Initially it was impossible for Jim to pay this amount from a cold start. Again, this is not an untypical situation. The point was to get something started, on an amount that could comfortably be afforded. Jim felt that he could commit £500 per month towards his pension. He also felt that he might be able to top it up with a lump sum at the end of each tax year. We carefully chose a provider that would not penalise Jim if he were to stop and start the payments - some are more accommodating than others.

This is a good way of planning a pension for self-employed people, as earnings are not fully determined until their accounts have been prepared. Monthly

amounts are good even for self-employed people with irregular commitments, as they encourage the important discipline of saving into a pension fund.

Jim is fortunate to have had a lump sum of £10,000. As this was spare money, not needed for any short-term needs, we could

IN BRIEF

TRAVEL INSURANCE Club is offering improved cover for backpackers aged 18-35. Activities now covered as standard include trekking up to 21,000ft, pot-holing, skydiving, rock climbing up to 16,000ft, powerboat racing, high diving and heli-skiing. A six-month policy costs £95; a £12-month policy would cost £143. Call 0800 163518.

CAZENOVE FUND Management is launching a US Growth and Security fund, which aims to give investors the benefit of any further rise in UK share prices, while offering some protection in the event of a downturn. The new fund is a sub-fund of Cazenove International, an umbrella fund incorporated in Dublin. Minimum subscriptions are \$10,000 (£6,333). Management fees are 1 per cent in year one and 1.25 per cent thereafter. Dealing costs will be 0.2 per cent, with a further 0.5 per cent of new money being set aside for a "dilution levy". Investors cash in their funds suddenly. Call 0171-666 0708.

LEEDS & HOLBECK Building Society is increasing rates paid on its YoungSaver account to 7.85 per cent gross. The account is open to young people aged up to 21, with a minimum deposit of £50. Call 0800 0728738.

HEGARTY & CO: our article about interest earned on money deposited with solicitors (Your Money, 20 May) might have been understood to imply that the complaint against Hegarty & Co of Peterborough, which had been rejected by the Solicitors Complaints Bureau and the Legal Services Ombudsman, was a professional conduct complaint. In fact, the complaint did not relate to any claim of misconduct. A recent County Court claim by the same complainant for damages against Hegarty & Co also failed. We are happy to make these points clear.

Please note that for your security, all telephone calls on the above number will be recorded and randomly monitored.

Advertisement Feature

It's worth shopping around for mortgage protection

Protect the roof over your family's head

Mortgage protection is one of Europe's third largest and most straightforward and affordable types of life insurance cover. It's designed to pay off your mortgage if you die - and so protect the roof over your family's head.

Buying your own home will probably be your biggest investment, so having cover that provides a tax-free sum to repay your mortgage if you die will certainly give you great peace of mind. In fact, most mortgage lenders may insist you have life insurance. But you don't have to accept their offer of cover. Like many things in life, it could really pay to shop around before you buy.

For instance, you could take a look at Zurich Municipal for mortgage protection policy. Part

nearly £90 a year if he took out the policy with Zurich Municipal. Over the 18-year period of cover, this certainly adds up to a significant saving.

Graham, from Corsham, Wiltshire, is married to Jane and has a young son, Tom. With a busy lifestyle, he found taking out a policy with Zurich Municipal extremely easy. He says: "The person on the end of the phone was very friendly and efficient, and the quote only took a few minutes. I was also very happy to discover I could have a 15% discount because of my job, which meant the premium was the cheapest one I found. I would certainly recommend Zurich Municipal to my friends and family."

From the table you can see for yourself how economical it is to choose Zurich Municipal for mortgage protection. Graham decided to phone around for some alternative quotes. He was delighted to discover that he could save

£100 a year if he took out the policy with Zurich Municipal. Over the 18-year period of cover, this certainly adds up to a significant saving.

Zurich Municipal is well worth considering for insurance cover. Why not phone them on 0800 147 147 - it's free. Their helpful staff are ready to take your call from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. Please quote the reference IND1507.

ZURICH MUNICIPAL

protecting the roof over your family's head

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£100 a year if he took out the policy with Zurich Municipal. Over the 1

A better class of saving

It can cost a small fortune to educate children, but forward planning will ensure they make it to class. Rachel Fixen begins a series on families and finance

HIGH FEES put private schools out of reach for most parents. Mark Grey of the School Fees Trust Scheme, calculates that it will cost him £120,000 to send just one of his children to a relatively cheap day school. This figure is daunting, to say the least, especially for young parents already coping with the mushrooming cost of family life.

But choosing where a child is to be educated is one of life's most important decisions, so a way of financing school fees often has to be found. This has spawned a whole industry within financial services.

Despite the cost, the proportion of children at independent schools has been rising for the past decade and, Mr Grey says that applications do not appear to have been affected as yet by the demise of the assisted places scheme. "What you get from an independent school is the choice to select the right education for your child," he points out. "If they're artistic, you choose one that is strong in art."

Around 80 per cent of people with children at private school manage to pay for fees out of current income, according to the School Fees Trust Scheme, which protects school fees should parents die or become terminally ill.

But even parents who cannot see their salaries stretching to that, could - with a bit of planning - still afford an independent school.

Starting early is key, says Dawn Slater, of the independent financial advisers Dawn Slater Associates. "Parents have to start as soon as possible to get as much cash accumulated as they can, because school fees are so unpredictable."

Fees per term at private day schools (ages 11-18) range from £1,300 to £3,300, according to the Independent Schools Information Service. For boarding schools the fees are far higher. But school fees are rising much faster than retail price inflation or wage inflation, at around 6 per cent a year.

In principle, saving for school fees is the same as saving for anything else. You can use any one of a number of investment vehicles - such as endowments, unit trusts and investment trusts.

But as fees are generally payable by the term or the year, you can maximise investment growth by



Parents who want the best for their children can end up paying a fortune for an education at a school like Eton

tying up the money for later school fees for as long as possible.

How much would you need to save? Assuming school fees are £1,500 per term and will rise by 7 per cent a year, sending a child now one year old through school and university from age 11 to 20 would cost £139,719, Dawn Slater calculates. To fund this from capital, you would need £67,000 to invest now. Or you could fund it by investing around £450 a month in an endowment or unit trust facility.

Clearly, the sooner you start investing the more time your money has to grow. But plenty can still be done, even if you have left it late.

Draw-down mortgage schemes make the most of equity in your

home to raise additional borrowing and are often combined with investment schemes such as endowments, which enable you to repay the loan.

Keen competition between mortgage providers means that simply by remortgaging your home you can repay your interest payments.

To see a child through a senior school with fees of £1,500 per term would cost around £35,000 starting now. The monthly interest on the mortgage borrowing would be £745 per £1,000, at 8.95 per cent variable rate.

Interest payments would increase as the money available under the mortgage facility was gradually drawn down. An endowment or PEP would usually run

alongside this to pay off the mortgage borrowing, which would cost a 35-year-old man around £223.60 per month over 10 years.

Don't think you're out of the wood when children leave school. There is always university. Starting from this autumn, university students whose parents or spouse earn more than £23,000 a year gross will have to contribute to fees, up to a maximum of £1,000 a year. Even if your child is eligible for a full grant and takes out a student loan, you may need to help with the cost of living away from home.

This year, a full grant topped up with a student loan adds up to about £4,370 for a student in London.

But the National Union of Students argues that people really need about £7,000 a year to keep their heads above water. Including fees, for a three-year course, you could expect to pay anything up to £24,000 in today's prices for each child in higher education.

If you had 16 years to save before your daughter started at university, putting away £28 a month in an investment vehicle that gave an average return of 9 per cent a year might cover the cost.

This assumes tuition and living costs adding up to about £5,000 a year in today's terms.

Dawn Slater Associates: 01635 45325; School Fees Trust Scheme: 01372 377817; ISIS: 0171 630 8793/4

THE NOVICE INVESTOR

'I was a wallflower at the privatisation disco'

After watching her friends reap the rewards of wise investment, Margaret St John decided it was time to earn the respect of her peers and start playing the markets

I AM sometimes green with envy when I think of a very clever friend of mine.

For years now, she has been playing the stock-market, and she enjoys it.

It has not always been that way for her. Her father died suddenly without having made a will. The family finances were a nightmare and her mother just "couldn't cope".

They were forced to sell the family home in the middle of a recession and my friend had to "unravel" her father's stocks and shares because of poorly kept records. She had, she says, to "learn very quickly".

She slowly began to build her own portfolio. I watched as she bought a house that seemed far too expensive and needed enormous amounts of work.

By wheeling and dealing, she renovated it beautifully. She sold some shares when the house needed a new roof.

Then, when she wanted a new kitchen and conservatory, she invested in something that she predicted would make her a quick killing. She was re-mortgaging long before it became fashionable, and when she had finished doing up the house, she let it for a staggering £650 per week for three years to an American Bank.

Meanwhile, I was paying my mortgage, pension and council tax in Leona Helmsley's eyes. I would definitely have been one of the "little people".

I never had any spare money to invest in any of the share tips my friend so generously passed on. I did invest in a PEP that I later learned had high charges, but at least a reasonable performance rate.

I was too nervous to take out a bank loan, even for those great value privatisations.

I was the wallflower at the privatisation disco and I could see every day how much I was missing when I glanced through the financial pages.

My jealousy was com-

pounded by the knowledge that another friend had made £12,000 carpetbagging on the conversion of the building societies into banks. It had cost him about £1,000.

Suddenly, however, I have £2,000 to spend, and I am still eager to try my luck.

My cautious side still tells me

to check that everything in my financial life is in order. Recently, I went to my local library to check out their "How to" books on the stock-market.

There are a huge number available, and they range from the humorous (Warren Buffet's musings are good value) to the downright dull.

"Diversification" was the word that kept cropping up, as having a number of shares in a selection of companies would reduce the risk of investing in one big loser. Investing for the long term was the only credible option for a small investor.

All this advice rather took the wind out of my sails.

Without saying so, the experts are really warning us that the stock-market is a form of gambling - a luxury that most people cannot afford.

We need to remember that shares are risky, but some are riskier than others.

"Diversification" was the word that kept cropping up, as having a number of shares in a selection of companies would reduce the risk of investing in one big loser. Investing for the long term was the only credible option for a small investor.

And timing was crucial, because we all want to buy low and sell high.

I had most things in order but not the critical illness policy, so I shall sort that out before talking to the analysts about my greatest fear of all. Is the stock-market too high? Have I missed the boat again?

Everybody I spoke to said all credit card debts must be cleared before you even dream

should be making the maximum possible contributions to my pension.

I should have between three to six months' costs and living expenses in easily available savings accounts in case of emergencies.

The books also said that I

should be making the maximum possible contributions to my pension.

I should have between three to six months' costs and living expenses in easily available savings accounts in case of emergencies.

Everybody I spoke to said all credit card debts must be cleared before you even dream

This is the first of four articles by Margaret St John



Leona Helmsley looked down on the "little people"

£200,000 Life Insurance
for as little
as 55p a day*

If you have regular bills to pay and a family to support it's understandable if you've put the issue of life insurance to the back of your mind. After all, cover can be costly, and you need money to hand.

But what if someone were able to offer you the level and quality of insurance that really makes a difference, for a daily cost that can be less than the price of a Sunday newspaper?

Then you'd have peace of mind you could afford right away.

With Term Assurance from General Accident, you can do just that. Because, for a fixed payment of only £16.60 a month (the equivalent of just 55p a day*) a General Accident Term Assurance Policy can provide you with

£200,000 worth of insurance for ten years. Which



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This product is not available outside the UK.

These details are required in order to give you a personalised illustration. We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated GA Group companies. Tick the box if you would prefer not to receive this information. Your security, your right with General Accident may be reduced and may be monitored.

(Note: If you are a person who has not used any tobacco products in the last 12 months)

Arma against a sea of troubles

Managing agents must prepare for the new leasehold laws. By Karen Woolfson

THE DIFFERENT personalities involved in the debate over leasehold reform make a fascinating combination. Barry Gardiner, the MP for Brent North who spearheaded the influential all-parliamentary group on the subject, has fallen into a leadership role. He labels himself an incurable optimist, and there is no doubt that this quality is what drives him to leap out and take action.

While his researchers are busy combing through six box files jam-packed with letters from leaseholders, Mr Gardiner is out there talking on the lines of the Association of Residential Managing Agents (Arma).

Mr Gardiner was invited to speak at Arma's recent annual general meeting, which is a big step, and an acknowledgement of necessary change by the association's executive secretary, David Hewett. Mr Gardiner may have felt like Daniel going into the lions' den, but his humour and conviction allowed him to scrape through at feeding-time.

He began: "The leasehold legislation in this country is about to change. I have no doubt that is why you have invited me to address you. Much of this change will profoundly affect the way in which you do business. You may not like it, but you recognise it is better to prepare for change rather than ignore it."

He went on to state that Arma's members act almost entirely as the agents of the freeholder side of the divide, but the Government has "clearly stated its overall objective is to provide leaseholders with the opportunity to reap the full benefits of owner-occupation and to have control over the way their homes are managed. The message is that their future lies in acting as the agents of the leaseholder side of the divide."

Arma does have a code of conduct and members are also required to comply with the management code of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. Mr Hewett says the association will look on to complaints where these codes are transgressed, adding concern would be shown "if a person was not being given access to underlying details".

If managing agents were tightly regulated and strictly licensed, Arma could help educate members

in the new laws and provide courses in communication skills. Mr Gardiner named some members who are allegedly not complying with the rules - apparently to diverse reactions. He said transgressions included not holding AGMs every year, high service charges and presenting accounts late or not at all. If Arma wanted to improve the image of managing agents, it will have to take strong action if members are found not to be complying.

Mr Gardiner stressed: "It is admirable to have a code of practice

It is ultimately for Arma to check its members' compliance - or lack of it

but of course it must be backed up by effective sanctions against any member found to have broken it. It is ultimately for Arma to judge its own members' compliance or lack of it. But Arma must be aware that leaseholders and, I may add, politicians, will judge Arma by the rigor with which it enforces its code."

Arma's Mr Hewett understands that, with leasehold reform around the corner, managing agents need to change, and is apparently willing to hear the leaseholders' perspective. The question is how it will face the challenge, given the potential resistance from members.

Mr Gardiner told Arma that if it wants to be given the level of access and input to Government consultation which it desires, then "it should set up a disciplinary committee with powers to reprimand, fine and ultimately to expel members who fail to act properly in accordance with its code of practice".

A regulator with teeth is still urgently needed for this industry.

Karen Woolfson welcomes comments. Write to: Homeables, c/o Nic Cicuti, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL. Karen regrets she is unable to reply personally to all letters.

Paul Gosling examines the Government's vision for making the public sector more effective

The drive for self-improvement

HEALTH MINISTER Alan Milburn last month spelt out the Government's vision for a more effective public sector. Speaking at the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy conference, Mr Milburn said standards would be raised across the public services, using local government's Best Value programme as a model for improving services while reducing costs.

Performance indicators will be widely used to benchmark service and management standards. In the NHS there will be a Commission for Health Improvement that will assess new clinical treatments to raise the standards of the worst performing hospital trusts to those of the best. In housing there will be a new inspectorate to ensure that social landlords deliver good quality homes. For social services there is likely to be a new system of independent inspections, removing the day-to-day role from local authorities. It is clear that the Government's vision is of driving standards up by using performance indicators, backed by a strong system of central inspection and auditing.

This does, however, raise the question of who will carry out the audits, especially when local authorities, in particular, have already complained of being subject to so many inspection systems that it deflects them from delivering services. The Best Value pilots are under way, yet it is unclear who will verify the outcomes to ensure that councils achieve continuous improvement. The pilot councils themselves seem to have very different views on how the system should be audited.

A White Paper on Best Value is expected in the autumn that should answer many of these questions. But it is likely that the Audit Commission will take a central role - the commission already oversees the auditing of councils and NHS trusts, as well as producing value for money surveys on local government and the NHS. The Local Government Association agreed last week to establish a management intervention service to raise standards in failing councils as support for the Best Value programme.

Andrew Foster is controller of the Audit Commission. He makes it clear that the commission makes no assumptions about what role it might take under Best Value. "The Government clearly hasn't finally decided how to deal with this, and we are all awaiting the White Paper with interest to see how it plans to allow



There are doubts that auditing of local authorities and NHS trusts will produce benefits for end-users - the public and patients

council responsibility," he says. "There is a great deal still to learn about Best Value. We all need to be in learning mode about what government wants and how to fulfil it."

There has been concern that the aims behind Best Value are too subjective to be readily auditable. Mr Foster does not agree. "Every local authority is going to have to have a performance plan. I think that is quite possible to audit using the normal audit process. Then there needs to be a second stage examining how well a council has done against their plan over a period of time. Different authorities might adopt different standards. The local auditor can then report on how well each authority has done, and would also re-

port on whether a council has carried out a major consultation process."

Another central element of Best Value will be the need for councils to adopt fundamental reviews of all services on a rolling basis, questioning whether they are achieving value-for-money; whether the set service standards are appropriate and what standards the residents themselves want, whether the service might be delivered in a better way or by a different contractor, and, indeed, whether the service should be provided at all. Mr Foster suggests that it is important for this process also to be audited, and raises the question whether it will be councils themselves that carry it out.

"Government is talking of re-

views of a fifth of services per annum," explains Mr Foster. "It will need to be established in which order these are reviewed. There is the possibility of a new standards inspectorate for this."

But the risk is that local authorities will be faced with too many inspection and auditing processes. Mr Foster is sympathetic to this fear, and welcomes signs from the Government that it wants to see more cohesion between the public-sector inspectorates, with the commission playing a constructive co-ordinating role. The commission will take on the new role of housing inspectorate, and it already operates joint inspection programmes with Ofsted (the Office for Standards in Education) and with

the Social Services Inspectorate, which could be a model for joint auditing and inspection processes for other local government functions.

"I agree entirely that authorities must not be 'audited to death,'" says Mr Foster. "It is important to reduce duplication. I think we can bring together our Ofsted, SSI and housing inspectorate work, creating a learning organisation to apply lessons learnt from one arm to the next. We can bring to bear the analytic approach from our value for money studies to the inspection work, and be the only inspectorate that can do that." Mr Foster welcomes the proposal to extend Best Value principles to the NHS, but warns that changes are needed for

the more centralised management systems of the health service.

There are particular challenges in auditing Best Value in local government. It is likely that the Government will want management improvement teams to go into failing local authorities, imitating the approach taken with failing schools. But should the local auditor and the Audit Commission do this, and should they operate the management teams? Mr Foster is cautious about this: "Our general view is that our most important value is our independence. We have never taken on executive responsibility. We have never seen ourselves as part of a management team that runs services." To do this, he be-

lieves, would damage the credibility of its external audit role.

There are implications, under Best Value, for some of the commission's existing practices. In particular it readily admits that some of its performance indicators will have to adjust to the new climate, with local authorities setting more of their own performance targets in consultation with local communities. "We must be prepared to change our system on PIs," says Mr Foster. "If everybody else has to change for Best Value to work, then every rule that holds for them must apply to us."

The other element of the equation for achieving Best Value is also now becoming clear. Ministers have been sending talking for some time about sending in management teams to impose improvements where councils themselves seem unable to bring it about. They privately talk of the 10 per cent or so of failing councils where management standards are just not rising. The political difficulty is how to bring about change without being seen to be too heavy-handed with autonomous bodies.

Tony Blair hinted at the solution when he spoke recently of the need for the best local authorities to accept responsibility for the worst. And last week's conference of the Local Government Association agreed to set up a management improvement team, based on the management and training division of the Local Government Management Board. It has already been agreed that the LGMB is to be disbanded and transferred to the LGA. One outstanding question is whether this new body, instead of the Audit Commission, should also audit Best Value.

Len Duvall, chairman of the LGMB review task force, says that the important principle is that local government achieves self-improvement, rather than be subject to yet another quango. He believes the LGA's new agency should focus on defining and highlighting best practice. Often this will mean telling smaller councils about the successful innovations achieved by the larger authorities.

"Local government has itself to deal with the small number of failing authorities and services, by intervening effectively and fairly," says Mr Duvall. "We must put our own house in order and not wait for inspectors of the Government to do it for us."

Make no mistake, Labour in office is not abandoning the Conservatives' public sector revolution. Instead it is just taking a slightly different route.

Nice day on the phone, dear?

A new transport policy could finally make teleworking worthwhile. By Paul Gosling



Will the transport White Paper improve matters for hard-pressed commuters? Geraint Lewis

It is not only the transport industry that is nervously awaiting the publication of the integrated transport white paper in the next few days. So, too, is the telecommunications sector, keen to see inducements for staff to work from home, thereby reducing the need for commuting while increasing the use of phones, faxes and modems.

But British Telecom, in particular, has been promising the new dawn of more flexible working for so long that people have stopped looking for the sun to rise. For several years BT has predicted a shift from office working to teleworking from home, yet the transfer has been so slow as to be barely discernible. BT claims that the time for teleworking has now arrived, bringing enormous advantages for a government wanting to take cars off the streets, and for employers keen to raise productivity and attract back into the workforce skilled people with domestic responsibilities.

Nell McLocklin is head of BT's workstyle consultancy group. The move to teleworking has begun, he insists. "We are talking about evolution, not revolution. It takes a long time to change the way we work, and society. We have done a lot of research - we are working with virtually every corporation. Some are now at early teleworking trial stage, others are thinking about it." BT believes that the range of benefits from teleworking is so wide that most large organisations will have to take it on board, at least for some of their staff, some of the time.

"On average in the UK, 18 days a year are lost to sickness for each worker," explains Mr McLocklin. "Often they are well enough to work but not to go to work. Seven and a half working weeks are spent each year, on average, travelling to work. If staff just spent one day a week working from home there is an extra week for either the employer or the employee. Most people who have experienced it will say that when you work at home you get a hell of a lot more done."

The expansion of the call centre

regular briefings give staff a continued sense of corporate identity and social contact

can provide an opportunity for integration of working life and lifestyle - one in six of the population are earners in some way." Employers such as law firms, which have invested heavily in high fee-earning staff, are being persuaded of the benefits of flexible working.

Teleworking can allow organisations to achieve major savings in ac-

tual environment. Not all staff will respond positively to working from home - greater self-discipline is necessary. BT recommends that rather than leave employees isolated, a system of regular briefings inside the office is maintained, giving staff a continued sense of corporate identity and social contact. Carers working from home will still need to find alternative care arrangements while they are working. A call centre worker holding a crying baby does not sound professional.

BT made detailed representations to the Government as part of the consultations on the transport white paper, proposing ways to boost teleworking. An important step, it believes, would be to reduce tax relief on car use, particularly where it is graduated onto a higher rate for a greater mileage. Instead, BT would like to see tax breaks instituted for equipment installed at home to facilitate telework.

Public bodies are also being asked to financially support local teleworking centres for use by people who cannot work from home, but who do not want to commute. The Government should also act as a good practice employer, says BT by doing more to allow its own staff to work from home.

Teleworking expert Ursula Huws, associate fellow at the Institute for Employment Studies, says that it is not yet proven that the numbers of people working from home are increasing, though it seems to be true. In the last survey, in 1997, four per cent of people were spending at least one day a week working at home on a computer.

But Ms Huws warns against the assumption that an increase in teleworking will necessarily reduce road traffic. "You can't get a rail season ticket for less than a week so people working from home some of the time are more likely to travel by car," she points out. "Or you might work for a more distant employer, so when you do travel to work, you travel further. And there is evidence that the less people travel to work, the more they travel for non-work purposes."

LAST WEEK'S proposed tie-up between the London Stock Exchange and its rival in Frankfurt were a godsend for the FX boys. With England out of the World Cup, opportunities for foreigner-bashing were limited. But the Frankfurt connection gave them lots of German jokes to ease their boredom with the continuing strength of the pound.

As usual, out of hundreds of possibilities only one or two quirks really caught the imagination of the FX boys - if "imagination" is not too strong a word to use. So, for the past week - and probably for a week or two to come - Marlene has been taunted with cries of "So, d'ya think the Krauts'll get up really early in the morning to reserve all the desks? Ha-ha!"

What's particularly interesting about all this is Marlene's reaction - not that she hasn't one. Not that the FX boys would notice; they may be able to tell whether a woman is wearing stockings 100 metres, but otherwise their perceptions are pretty blunt. So while they are blissfully unaware that their xenophobic jokes aren't upsetting Marlene at all, I am curious as hell.

My theory, and Laura agrees with me on this one, is that it has a fair bit to do with the semi-handsome 20-year-old girls trader who joined us a few months back. Certainly he and Marlene go to massive efforts to avoid each other at work in the manner of people having office romances/affairs. Why they bother is beyond me, since in the normal course of events they'd have no reason to speak to each other in the office anyway. In fact, by ostentatiously "avoiding" each other, they only succeed in drawing attention to themselves. But then, perhaps that's what they want.

"Probably," says Laura, "they're both feeling terribly chuffed. He's smug as hell because this high-flying thirtysomething is showing him the ways of the world. And she's thrilled to meet someone who won't fall asleep



THE TRADER

at 10pm, or talk about mortgages, and knows there's no point trying to impress her so he'll just be himself."

"Hmm, yes," I say, recalling my last few dates and quite suddenly seeing the point of younger men. So it's good timing on his part that a few seconds after this, Patrique rings to invite me for a drink.

I met him at his big sister's birthday bash last weekend, but resisted his Gallic charm on the grounds that, although handsome as Adonis, he is six years younger than I am. Now, the age gap seems an irrelevance. So we fix up a date for that evening and I put the phone down feeling rather pleased and modern.

"That's nice," says Laura. "You can celebrate France's World Cup win and Bastille Day in one go."

"I don't think I can," I reply. "The FX boys would be calling me a traitor for weeks if I did anything to suggest I don't actually loathe the French. I'm sure that's why no one bet on France winning the footie."

The next morning, I didn't feel like celebrating at all. Laura spotted the glibness at once, of course, so it was only fair to tell her why.

"It was all going so well," I whimpered. "Then he says he wants to ask my advice, and I feel my heart sink. Anyway, it seems there's this woman he adores to distraction - his words - but she doesn't notice him and what is he to do about it? He can't ask his sister because she won't approve.

She's 35 or something ancient like that. So I'm depressed because I'm too young to be an older woman."

"Oh well," says Laura, consolingly. "One day..."

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ACCOUNT

SECRETARIAL

It's pretty demanding looking after every aspect of a high-powered boss's life, but being a super-PA also has its rewards. By Rachelle Thackray

It is not easy looking after number one

It is no wonder that so many high-profile men marry their secretaries. In an age of routine global travel, lightning communication and a long-hours working culture, PAs (the majority of whom are still female) are often connected by the working equivalent of an umbilical cord to their bosses: they fix appointments, defuse tense situations, sort out dining arrangements, buy birthday presents, and in some cases even look after the children. The age of the housewife may be in its death throes, but that of the multi-tasking, professional PA is well under way.

In the City, the male-female boss-secretary relationship is still much in evidence, but there has been a gradual shift towards treating secretaries as, if not exactly equals, then professionals, more than able to organise every aspect of their bosses' lives. Pippa Driscoll, who took a career break to have children and now works for an executive at the Prudential, enjoys her one-to-one role and finds it liberating. The key to a thriving, working relationship is, she says, primarily to be found in a personality match. "My boss is a dream to look after, but what's easy for one person is not necessarily easy for someone else. All the secretaries here can do the job standing on their heads, but it boils down to how you get on with your boss. Mine doesn't like to be fussed and mothered, and I'm fortunate that he's relatively well organised. I provide the back-up, and I have to be sensitive to the situation. In days gone by, you'd be sitting typing letters all the time, but now it's much more administrative and you have to be thinking ahead."

She knew her boss as a friend before she got the job, and mutual friends said she was mad to take

it. "But we can switch off, and it's purely business. We also share the same sense of humour."

That's a quality that Francesmary Kay, another professional administrator, often needs. Unlike Ms Driscoll, Ms Kay runs a freelance administrator team working for several different bosses on a one-to-one basis. Since she initiated her client base three years ago, after time out to bring up a family, she has seen it all, with a variety of tasks ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous: some of the more unlikely have been cleaning out a fridge full of rotting food, ordering a thousand hankies from Harrods, and organising *feng shui* for a fish pond.

The difference in her working style is that she can walk away from a demanding boss, should she so decide. Like many PAs, she is ultra-organised, but she is also, ultimately, in control – and that gives her an extra confidence. "I am not dependent on them for a

salary, so if they go bananas, you just say 'I am not going to pick up this rattle you've thrown down in a tantrum'. I couldn't sit for 40 hours a week in the same chair and take it all week."

She admits that she does, however, get a buzz out of impossible-sounding challenges. "Some bosses are bullies and almost resent the fact that you don't get frightened. I do enjoy being stretched, although some can be unbearable."

"They are like animals: if they know they've got you on the run, they become monstrous. It's not a job for the faint-hearted; you have to be pretty confident. You wouldn't put an 18-year-old in these situations, because if you don't know what to do, you can panic. But if they trust you, they will let you do anything."

Pippa Driscoll finds that being a PA to a high-profile director has its own perks within the organisation. "It's very nice to work at this

level, and if you want something, you can get it without having to stamp your foot. If you say who it's for, it gets done, although you still have to treat everybody as equals, and keep everybody happy."

Working for extremely wealthy clients makes life easier for Francesmary Kay, because everything is on tap. "You simply pick up the phone and say 'Help!'. But it also demands slightly different dynamic, she says. Tact is essential, as is an awareness that many are paying for a certain deference.

Once, she made the mistake of recommending a hotel which she believed to be excellent, but was well below the standard of luxury which her clients were accustomed. "I stupidly said: 'You'll love it', but [the problem was that] I had been able to afford to stay there."

The relationship between a boss and his PA may appear relaxed but any informality should always be on the boss's terms, warns Kay. "You are never quite sure when that guillotine is going to drop." Second-guessing a client's thoughts is an essential skill to develop. Many of the upper-crust clients are even more fastidious – particularly about money – than others: they are the ones, says Ms Kay, who want to recycle their envelopes.

They can also be highly idiosyncratic. One client would not take on a certain personal assistant because she lived in Crouch End, rather than SW1; another tested potential assistants by bringing down his gun and extolling the joys of bloodsports.

She herself was even asked by a client for her hand in marriage, but declined because it would have meant giving up work, and she couldn't face being a lady who lunches. "I can't be bored – it would drive me completely demented. Nobody wants to work unless it's fun, and I get fulfilment from my work."

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A TOP PA

NOT FOR everyone the ascent from lowly clerical worker to top-flight executive organiser. Opinions differ on what sets the super-PA apart from the rest, but most are agreed that an outgoing, calm, flexible and efficient personality is a prerequisite.

A spokeswoman for one agency that places PAs with top directors says shorthand is still an ideal skill, as it is a more convenient and personal way of working.

Nothing, she says, can replace years of experience,

which develops skills in sensing what is needed and when; juggling different tasks to varying deadlines; prioritising without being told which task is more urgent; and being a calming, reassuring influence.

Other attributes are confidence, a charming manner when dealing with self-important associates – as well as your boss – and a willingness to put in the hours to get the job done. The super-PA knows that the back-up system must not fail.



Freelance PA Francesmary Kay juggles calls – all part of her challenging job Nicola Kurtz

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Andrew Hughes is one of the men who are taking secretarial work to get a foot in the door of big business and learn from the inside

Philip Meech

The male secretaries who refuse to be typecast

Men are muscling in on a traditionally female job, and making a pretty good go of it. By Helen Jones

"WHEN I tell people I'm a secretary, they automatically assume that I'm either gay or terribly unambitious," says Andrew Hughes, who is personal assistant to the chairman of a multinational company.

Hughes is neither, but is using the post as a stepping-stone to further his career. "I'm learning far more about business by working day to day with a top businessman than I ever would from a graduate trainee scheme, where I might be one of 20 people struggling to get themselves noticed. I have access to high-level people and, while I may be the chairman's assistant now, I intend to have his job one day," he says.

Male secretaries are still something of a rarity, their numbers are increasing. Office Angels, the recruitment company, says that 25 per cent of the temporary staff it deals with are men - an increase of 10 per cent in the last year.

Many of these men are attracted by the new opportunities that secretarial work offers. The stereotype of the secretary as a blonde bimbo who spends all day frittering with her boss and filing her nails has all but disappeared, and men are beginning to recognise that a secretarial post can be the first rung on a career ladder.

A spokeswoman for Office Angels says that being a secretary no longer means taking shorthand notes and typing them up: "A new breed of

"excuses" who can turn their hand to a range of different tasks is emerging," she says. "The role is changing and responsibilities now include overseeing information technology, training, marketing and personnel." The rewards can also be high - top personal assistants can earn up to £40,000 a year.

Paul Lewis is personal assistant to the director of the exhibition and festival unit of the Millennium Commission. "I have been doing the job since February and it involves a lot of different responsibilities. Eventually I would like to see myself in charge of administration for a very large organisation," he says.

James Reed, chief executive of Reed Employment Services, says:

"Originally, secretarial work was restricted to men, as mastering a keyboard was felt to be too technical for women. Forty years ago, that trend was reversed and it was seen as almost inevitably a female domain. But now, more and more men are joining them."

Mr Reed says that many of these are "new graduates looking to improve their IT skills and gain insight into how industries work".

One such is Quill Chaney, who

was temping, but wanted a career in media. "I tempted as a way of getting my foot in the door - to see how these companies work and the sort of opportunities they offered. I have now got a job in media sales, which is what I wanted."

Natalie Tapp, a recruitment consultant, and director of Marshall

LIMITED, says that men do tend to see secretarial work as a way of getting into an organisation and gaining some experience, and are sometimes prepared to put in more effort than their female counterparts.

"The men we see are generally highly computer literate, with good speeds and a professional approach. But we're finding more and more women who place little value on the role of secretary, and can't be bothered to try to improve their skills."

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highly computer literate, with good speeds and a professional approach. But we're finding more and more women who place little value on the role of secretary, and can't be bothered to try to improve their skills."

But while men are beginning to apply for secretarial posts, some employers are reluctant to employ them. Marshall Tapp, which deals primarily with the media industry, has carried out a survey of managing directors' attitudes to male secretaries. Most responses were positive and 70 per cent of those surveyed said that they would like to see more male secretaries in the workplace. However, others were hostile to the idea.

"Although we work in a supposedly forward-looking industry, 5 per cent of respondents said that they would not give a man's CV the same consideration as a woman's," says Ms Tapp. She adds that she would expect the figure to be higher in more stuffy institutions such as banking and the City.

Ms Tapp says that, while some clients were positive about the idea in theory, in practice they still refuse to interview a man. "One said he wouldn't consider it because the idea was so odd, and another said he would assume that they were homosexual," she says.

As a result, Ms Tapp says that although her company encourages men to sign up, and even specifies in its advertising that men are

welcome, she would never send a man to an interview without checking with the client first. "When it comes to a final decision, clients will often employ a woman in preference to a man in order not to rock the boat," she says.

Men who do find employment as secretaries say that they generally do not encounter any problems within the workplace, although people outside the firm can be mistaken about their role.

"I did get some funny reactions," says Mr Lewis. "When I was a legal secretary, people would be put through to me on the phone and they would automatically assume that they were talking to a solicitor rather than a secretary."

Mr Chaney says that he did not encounter any hostility when he was a secretary, and that some companies even preferred to employ a man. "I worked for two women at one advertising agency and the company said it really wanted a guy because it was felt that the two women might be too emotional - one of them was really stressed and was quite scatty."

He also adds that, "Men like to have women secretaries because they like to have a pretty face around and I think it works for women in the same way - they like a good-looking guy about the place."

Andrew Hughes is a pseudonym

A great career move that led to Oblivion

I WORK FOR

KAREN HARVEY IS PA TO RALPH ARMOND, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ALTON TOWERS THEME PARK

I ARRIVED here, aged 18, thanks to an agent who thought that I would be perfect for Alton Towers. She was right. A family outing to the theme park had always been my idea of a dream day, and I felt as if I'd won the lottery when I was offered a job. But I confess that I lied when I said I loved the big rides. In fact, I was terrified of them. However, I soon became an adrenaline junkie after seeing just how safe the rides were.

I briefly worked in the marketing department, which was great fun and included a day spent trying to keep a bunch of journalists away from Princess Diana, Harry and William. On another occasion, a group of spotty boys sitting round my table turned out to be Take That.

The marketing manager had the kind of temper which could lead to furniture damage and I really had to stand up for myself. But with his encouragement I realised that I could make the change from being a dog-body to a PA with authority and power. I thought I would have to wait until I was 30 to become the managing director's PA because that was the rule at the time. But they decided to give me the position at the age of 26, which meant a lot to me.

Ralph is responsible for the entire business and the work is pressurised. He's one of those bosses who never shouts; you can tell what he's in just by his expression.

But when Ralph and I went on it for the first time I think he was the one who screamed the loudest.

Ralph keeps a tight ship and is always on site checking to see that the products are just right, and I usually run alongside him. Mine isn't what one would call a normal job, but it's very amusing.

I run the staff social club and host charity events for local children. I find even miming meetings is interesting when the topics under discussion include the final scenes in the Haunted House, or where we'll put the Talking Trees and the 80-ft ball.

On the few occasions when I have to take complaint calls, I pride myself on being able to change someone's opinion of their day out at Alton Towers, because I feel very passionate about the place. I call it "rescuing the magic".

I met my husband Drew here. He's an on-site engineer, and was working in a hole underneath the log flume at the time. I liked the look of him but it took me 10 years to get him to ask him to marry me. He is the only person who can really understand the extent of my enthusiasm for Alton Towers; he knows that it's in my blood now.

I got so distracted around the time of my wedding that Ralph said he came close to firing me. But I think that in fact he finds my love life very "rescuing the magic".



Karen Harvey and her boss Ralph Armond 'road test' all big ride attractions at Alton Towers News Team

amusing. I don't think he would ever want a straitlaced PA.

I joined the company when I was a teenager and grew up with Alton Towers, rather like one of our managers who started work here at the age of 14 and is now on his 42nd year.

But although the company has expanded by at least two-thirds since I arrived, I don't want to be promoted again. I reached my career pinnacle when I was given this job, and it's mine now. In fact, I would go out into the car park and fight for it if someone tried to take it away from me.

INTERVIEW BY KATIE SAMPSON

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sented by their agents.

20th July 1998

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NEW FILMS

MOJO (15)

Star: Jez Butterworth
Starring: Aidan Gillen, Ian Hart
There is a moment in *Absolute Beginners* when the director, Julian Temple, pays homage to *Rear Window* by moving the camera across the exterior of a Soho building, dipping into the vignettes unfolding in each office. One of them shows Lionel Blair as a salacious music impresario grooming his junior Elvis and drooling over the boy's snake-hips, snarl and quiff. That detail reminds us that behind every young blade in pop lurk pimps who made a point of sampling the goods they were flogging.

The new British film *Mojo*, which Jez Butterworth has directed and adapted from his own play, reveals what we might have seen if Temple had manoeuvred his camera inside that office, down the stairs, across the dancefloor and into the dim back rooms.

Mojo is set in a mythologised 1950s Soho which laces grubby realism with rococo glamour. Insignificant Teddy boy Sidney (Andy Serkis) pops pills and dreams of America; his sidekick, Sweetie (Martin Gwynn Jones), is a jittery boy, easily impressed; their boss, Ezra (Ricky Tomlinson), is a blamcance of a man who knows what's good for business.

The film never entirely escapes its theatrical roots, and while it may linger in the shadow of *Reservoir Dogs*, it concentrates on a sexual tension which American crime movies generally shy away from.

CW: Plaza, Warner Village West End

SLING BLADE (15)

Director: Billy Bob Thornton
Starring: Billy Bob Thornton, Robert Duvall
This intelligent and unsettling drama won its writer-director, Billy Bob Thornton, an Oscar for best adapted screenplay two years ago. Thornton gives a performance of dazzling concentration as Carl, a mentally disabled man released after spending his life in an institution. Despite his past, he is welcomed into the home of a young boy whom he befriends.

Although Thornton is free of the indulgences of most actors who are called upon to portray a disabled character, the film is prone to sanitising his personality. That aside, this is a compelling

work dotted with surprising performances.
CW: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

TOUCH (15)

Director: Paul Schrader
Starring: Skeet Ulrich, Christopher Walken
Paul Schrader's adaptation of Elmore Leonard's novel turns a breezy satire into a rather heavy-handed investigation into religious conviction. Skeet Ulrich is an accidental saint who finds himself bleeding from stigmata and healing the disabled. A nice supporting cast give the film some bounce.

CW: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys

KISS OR KILL (18)

Director: Bill Bennett
Starring: Frances O'Connor, Matt Day
Australian road movie-cum serial killer drama about a couple of scam merchants, one of whom may be a murderer. Pretentious in some places, it manages to be agreeably nasty in others.

CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

GURU IN SEVEN (18)

Director: Shani Ghewal
Starring: Saeed Jaffrey, Jacqueline Pearce
A dismal, witless British comedy which comes on like an Asian version of *Alfie*. A young chancer enters into an agreement to sleep with seven women in seven days in order to attain guru status.

CW: ABC Piccadilly, Virgin Trocadero

MAD CITY (15)

Director: Costa Gavras
Starring: Dustin Hoffman, John Travolta
A simplistic work from the once inspiring film-maker Costa Gavras, who made *Z*. Dustin Hoffman is the weaselly reporter who chances upon a hostage situation in a museum.

CW: ABC Baker Street, H'smith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Rd, Warner Village West End

Although Thornton is free of the indulgences of most actors who are called upon to portray a disabled character, the film is prone to sanitising his personality. That aside, this is a compelling

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

THE APOSTLE (12)

Director: Robert Duvall plunges into his role in a manner that is both terrifying and entrancing. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square

THE BIG SWAP (18)

A drab, unconvincing and preachy drama about partner-swapping. West End: Plaza

CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan). West End: ABC Baker St, ABC Tottenham Court Rd, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Take a suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a junkie with a month to live and give them a few months on the road together before an inevitable tearful farewell. Serve with a sick bag at the ready. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream With the Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem refreshing and deserved. West End: Metro

DIRTY NIGHT (15)

Shameless tearjerker with Brenda Blethyn as a cancer-suffering bingo winner who jets off to Las Vegas for a last-chance holiday with her sister-in-law (Julie Walters). CW: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)

Jaunty take on the rites-of-passage genre, set in Leicester in the 1970s. The lively script is complicated by the sparkling performance of Joanna Ward as the film's heroine. West End: Rio Cinema

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

Twentieth anniversary reissue of the nostalgic musical. What fun there can be had from a second viewing, it's mostly due to John Travolta's manic performance as the greased-up high school heartbreaker. CW: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

KURT & COURTNEY (15)

Compulsive documentary investigating the death of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain and the conspiracy theories surrounding it. CW: Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Warner Village West End

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

A mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat. CW: Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat clichés. West End: ABC Piccadilly

LIVE FLESH (18)

A novel by Ruth Rendell is the origin of Pedro Almodóvar's most accomplished film to date. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Curzon Cinema, Odeon Camden Town, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)

Comedy, starring John Hurt and Jason Priestley, concerned with the relationship between art and life. Writer-director Richard Kwieciński takes great care in tracing the areas where they overlap. CW: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket

MIMIC (15)

Mira Sorvino is a doctor who combats a virus that's sweeping New York by developing a rival cockroach species to wipe out the original disease-carriers in this ingenious science-fiction horror-fable. CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)

Hanif Kureishi establishes an opposition between a Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds Jennifer Aniston's dreams of weddings by turning out to be gay. CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

PALMETTO (15)

Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) is the ex-con who gets mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women. CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

POINT BLANK (18)

Re-release of John Boorman's chilling existential thriller starring Lee Marvin. West End: Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

PONETTE (15)

French tale of a four-year-old girl (Violette Thivisol) whose mother dies in a car accident. Thivisol is superb, yet there's discomfort at watching one young son parse emotion this raw and primal. CW: Curzon Mayfair, Metro

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)

Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat. West End: Virgin Trocadero

SAVIOR (18)

Politically inept war film set in Bosnia. Dennis Quaid stars as a man who loses his family in a Paris bomb blast and avenges their deaths before becoming a hired killer. West End: Virgin Haymarket

SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)

Implausibly contrived romantic comedy in which Harrison Ford plays a boozey pilot who crash-lands with a New York magazine editor (Anne Heche) on a remote island. CW: Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

SOUL FOOD (15)

A black version of *Parent Hood*, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity that implies. West End: Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

A mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat. CW: Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat clichés. West End: ABC Piccadilly

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)

Spooft of Merchant/Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for *Leon the Pig Farmer*. West End: Plaza, Virgin Chelsea

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)

The joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, but thanks to highly naturalistic performances, it's a hypnotic and moving experience. West End: Renoir

THE WAR AT HOME (15)

Tale of a traumatised Vietnam veteran on his return home to Texas, adapted from James Duff's Broadway play. *Homefront*. CW: Plaza

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

Unashamedly dumb but winning comedy about a romantic wedding singer (Adam Sandler) who falls for a waitress (Drew Barrymore). West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket

MIMIC (15)

Mira Sorvino is a doctor who combats a virus that's sweeping New York by developing a rival cockroach species to wipe out the original disease-carriers in this ingenious science-fiction horror-fable. CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

Chelsea

work dotted with surprising performances. CW: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket

A LOT OF PEOPLE were quite sniffy about The Man in the Iron Mask (left). Why?

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey

A LOT OF PEOPLE were quite sniffy about The Man in the Iron Mask (left). Why? What more could you possibly demand of a swashbuckler? The writer-director Randall Wallace, who scripted *Braveheart*, is loyal to Dumas; he's hooked on the sound of clinking cutlasses, and he throws together Jeremy Irons, John Malkovich, Gabriel Byrne and Gerard Depardieu as the disbanded musketeers. In the central twin roles, Leonardo DiCaprio is far more fun than he was in *Titanic*, even when

wearing an atrocious flowing wig which suggests Revolving Barbie. Prince Charles Cinema, London WC2 (0171-437 8181) 3.45pm

Junk Mail is a darkly funny Norwegian thriller about a dangerously inquisitive postman. The film's grim but compassionate tone recalls Bertrand Blier's similarly playful *Buffet Frost*, and there are

Bertrand Blier's similarly playful *Buffet Frost*, and there are

delicate echoes of *Diez* too.

Leicester Phoenix Arts 0116-355 4654 today 6.15pm, tomorrow 8.45pm

0171-638 8891 7pm

Following the world premiere of his opera, Doctor Ox's Experiment, cult maverick

composer Gavin Bryars' Third String Quartet has its first performance this morning during a Cheltenham Festival event from the Lyric String Quartet.

Pitville Pump Room, Cheltenham (01242 227979) 11am

Classical Duncan Hadfield

MAYBE ONE doesn't immediately associate the august Sir Colin Davis (right) with a volatile opera such as Carmen, although Sir Colin was Principal Conductor at the Royal Opera. And, today as maestro of the LSO, he presides over a concert performance of Bizet's classic featuring a blistering international line-up of soloists, led by Olga Borodina in the title role and "fourth" tenor Jose Cura as Don Jose. (0171-638 8891) 7pm

Following the world premiere of his opera,

Doctor Ox's Experiment, cult maverick

composer Gavin Bryars' Third String

Quartet has its first performance this

morning during a Cheltenham Festival

event from the Lyric String Quartet.

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Pitville Pump Room, Cheltenham (01242 227979) 11am

22/LISTINGS

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) 8R:
Peckham Rye City Of Angels 3.40pm,
6.30pm, 8.30pm Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 3.45pm, 6.10pm,
8.35pm Mad City 3.40pm, 6.05pm,
8.40pm Mime 3.35pm, 6.05pm,
8.45pm Six Days, Seven Nights
3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Soul Food
3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870 902 0407) BR: Purley The
Object Of My Affection 5.40pm Red
Corner 8.20pm Six Days, Seven
Nights 5.10pm, 8.10pm Sliding Doors
5.50pm, 8.40pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870 902 0401) BR: Putney
Bridge, BR: Purley City Of Angels 1pm,
3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Object Of
My Affection 1pm, 6pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 1.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.15pm,
8.45pm The Wedding Singer 3.30pm,
8.30pm

RICHMOND
ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218)
BR/©: Richmond City Of Angels
1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The
Object Of My Affection 1.10pm,
3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm,
9.20pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm,
4pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870 902 0419) BR: Romford,
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)
2.10pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Object Of
My Affection 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 2.20pm,
5.50pm, 8.25pm

ODEON LIBERTY (01708-
729040) BR: Romford City Of Angels
12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm
Deep Impact 12.15pm, 2.50pm,
5.30pm, 8.10pm Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 12.30pm, 3pm,
6pm, 8.30pm Mad City 12.50pm,
3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm, Mime
1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm The
Object Of My Affection 1.30pm,
3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Sliding Doors
1.30pm, 4.15pm The Wedding Singer
12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm,
8.50pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555 131) BR: Sidcup Six
Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 5.30pm,
8.30pm Sliding Doors 2.15pm, 5.15pm,
8.35pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-907 0717) BR:
Cricklewood City Of Angels 1.30pm,
5.30pm, 8.20pm Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 2.45pm, 5.30pm,
8.15pm Mad City 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm
The Object Of My Affection 2.15pm,
5.15pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven
Nights 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The
Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

STREAMTHAM
ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streamtham
Hill Green (20th Anniversary Edition)
2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Mad City
2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm Sliding Doors
2.25pm, 5.45pm

ODEON (0181-315 4219)
BR: Streamtham Hill/Brixton/Clapham
Common Mime 3pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm,
8.50pm The Object Of My Affection
1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Six
Days, Seven Nights 1.40pm, 4pm,
6.20pm, 8.50pm Soul Food 12.40pm,
3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Wedding
Singer 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE
HOUSE (0181-555 3365) BR/©:
Stratford East City Of Angels 3.55pm, 6pm
The Girl With Brains In Her Feet 2pm,
6.50pm Girls' Night 1.30pm, 6.30pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)
4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm Guru In
7.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm Mimic
1.30pm, 4pm, 9pm The Object Of My
Affection 4.20pm, 6.50pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 2.15pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm,
9.15pm Soul Food 6.30pm

SUTTON
UCI 6 (0900-888 990) BR: Sutton/
©: Morden City Of Angels 4.15pm,
3.15pm Grease (20th Anniversary
Edition) 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Mad City
3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Mime 9.45pm
The Object Of My Affection 6.15pm Six
Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 7pm,
9.30pm Sliding Doors 5pm, 7.30pm The
Wedding Singer 3.45pm, 8.45pm

TURPIN LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519)
©: Turpin Lane Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm,
8.35pm The Object Of My Affection
3.10pm, 5.35pm, 8.30pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

UXBRIDGE
ODEON (01953-813 139) ©: Uxbridge
Six Days, Seven Nights 1.10pm
5.30pm 6.10pm, 8.35pm Sliding Doors
1.15pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-902 0414) BR: Walthamstow/
Central City Of Angels 1.25pm, 3.40pm,
6.15pm, 8.30pm Mime 3.50pm,
8.40pm The Object Of My Affection
1.20pm, 6pm Six Days, Seven Nights
1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON
(0932-25285) BR: Wallon on Thames
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)
3.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR:
Eltham The Object Of My Affection
3.40pm, 5.56pm, 8.30pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

WILLESDEN
BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822)
©: Willesden Green Sliding Doors
4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR/©:
Wimbledon - South Wimbledon City Of
Angels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)
1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Object
Of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.30pm,
6.30pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights
1.15pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm The
Wedding Singer 2pm, 6.45pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3461) ©: South
Woodford - South Wimbledon City Of
Angels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)
1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Object
Of My Affection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm,
8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights
1.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR:
Woolwich Arsenal Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm,
8.35pm Six Days, Seven Nights
3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

CINEMA REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE AT THE
INSTITUT FRANCAIS Queen's
Place SW1 (0171-838 2144/2146) Le
Hussard Sur Le Toit (NC) 7.30pm

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647/CC
0171-930 3647) Organ (NC) 2.30pm,
6.30pm, 8.30pm The Object Of
My Affection 1pm, 6pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 1.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.15pm,
8.45pm The Wedding Singer 3.30pm,
8.30pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero,
Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153)
Across The Universe - A New York
Adventure (3-D) 11am, 1.50pm, 6.10pm,
9.20pm 5.15pm City In Space (NC)
7.30pm Deep Impact 2.30pm, 6.10pm,
8.30pm Madame Butterfly (PG) 8.30pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place
WC2 (0171-837 8181) The
Rainmaker (15) 1pm The Man In The
Iron Mask (12) 3.45pm Breakdown
(16) 6.25pm Covent Garden/Charing Cross
8.45pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road
W6 (0181-237 1111) La Haine (15)
6.45pm + Nil By Mouth (18) 8.40pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE
High Street, Brentford, M4 8PL
The Object Of My Affection 1.30pm,
3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Sliding Doors
1.30pm, 4.15pm The Wedding Singer
12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm,

5.50pm, 8.50pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORKS (01273-532611)
Afterglow (16) 6.30pm L'Appartement
(15) 2.15pm + Un Cœur En
Flamme (15) 6pm The Apartment (15)
7pm The Phantom Of The Opera (15)
7pm

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (0117-926 5889)
The Venetian Twins (15) 6.30pm
Salut Cousin! (15) 6pm Love And
Death On Long Island (15) 8.20pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)
Love And Death On Long Island (15)
12.30pm, 7pm The Apostle (12)
1.30pm, 8.15pm Point Blank (18) 5pm

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE
(01222-399666) Amistad (15) 6.15pm
Love And Death On Long Island (15)
7.30pm My Son The Faun (15)
2.30pm, 8pm

CHICHESTER
NEW FILM CENTRE (01243-766650)
The Wedding Singer (12) 9.15pm
Regeneration (15) 4pm Good Will Hunting (15) 3pm

IPSWICH
FILM THEATRE (01473-215544)
The Apostle (12) 6pm, 8.30pm Wild
Man Blues (12) 6pm Mother And Son
(U) 8.15pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047)
Great Expectations (15) 8.15pm Spice
Girls: Spice (NC) 5.45pm

PLYMOUTH
ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114)
The Hanging Garden (15) 8pm

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE
CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

BRISTOL
ARNOFINI (0117-929 9191),
Ponette (15), Side Story (PG)

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (01753-831099),
City Of Angels (12), Six Days, Seven
Nights (12), Star Kid (12),
Olden Dayz (12), Kiss Ur Kill (12),
Scream 2 (18), Titanic (12),
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (12),
Blues Brothers (2000) (PG), I Wish
Master (18); Deep Impact (15); The
Big Lebowski (18); Dark City (15);
Anastasia (U); Mousehunt (PG);
Sliding Doors (15); The Wedding
Singer (15); Godfather (PG); Ghwarali
Bahraini (PG); Gharwali Bahraini (PG);
The Object Of My Affection (15); Jurassic Park (PG); Ghulam (PG); Mad City (15);
Orpheus Henleaze (1976) (16); Godzilla (PG); Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) (12);
The Girl With Brains In Her Feet (2pm);
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Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm;
Sliding Doors 5pm, 7.30pm The
Wedding Singer 3.45pm, 8.45pm

KINOSCOPE (01753-831099),
City Of Angels (12), Six Days, Seven
Nights (12), Star Kid (12),
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ODEON (01753-831099),
City Of Angels (12), Six Days, Seven
Nights (12), Star Kid (12),
Olden Dayz (12), Kiss Ur Kill (12),
Scream 2 (18), Titanic (12),

WEDNESDAY TELEVISION

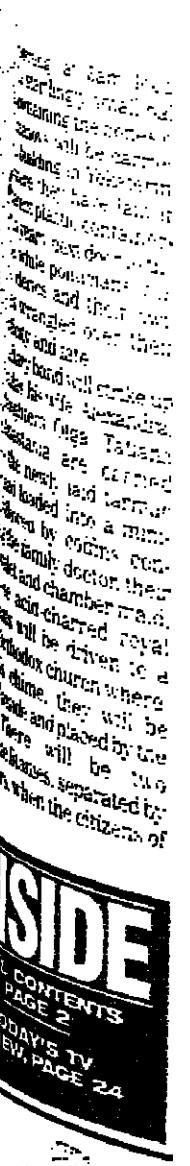
BBC1

BBC2

ITV Carlton

Channel 4

Channel 5



THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 15 July 1998



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

TELEVISION REVIEW

WHAT WORLD reporters do without the word "could", that unipinpoint term which swivels between the present and the future, the probable and the remotely possible? Over the last two nights – in what amounts to an informal festival of millennial angst – we have been told that disaffected Soviet missile operators "could" launch an attack without authority in Equinox's programme "Russian Roulette" and that "secret biological weapons could devastate entire populations" (in *Panorama's* report on germ warfare research on Soviet Union). Both programmes shared the same portentous manner – sepulchral voice-overs (Piers Gibson and Tom Mangold respectively), ominous soundtracks and shots of the defeated Russian landscape in a little cold logic. These things could happen. It's true. But how likely is that they will?

Mangold's *Permanence* (BBC1, 8pm, for instance, included one sequence in which a biological weapons expert commented on the possible effects of a terrorist attack on London using hormone aphrodisiacs. His speculation was that two-thirds of the population might be affected, an astoundingly high figure given the difficulty of disseminating biological agents, but there was no expert on hand to point the new sex or contrast. And when Mangold interviewed a maniacally crazed wile supermench unversed recently for attempting to get hold of plague cultures, the sense of having taken a wrong turnning into an apocalyptic theme park was intensified. There are people one might take seriously on this subject, but a man who thinks the world is on the brink of Biblical cataclysm is not exactly an unimpeachable witness.

Mangold made a more convincing case for the claim that official Soviet research had continued in secret after agreements designed to end germ warfare programmes, and that there are some vile things currently brewing in secret laboratories. But even

here, there were doubts about the exact nature of the biological weapons programme, was cited as saying that the Russians were now trying to combine smallpox and Ebola, but he didn't reveal how he knew, and the project seemed oddly quiet. Recitation anyway. Given that either disease will kill you perfectly satisfactorily on its own. The nature of one intelligence expert about Russian openness – finding the truth is like grabbing a bar of soap in the shower! – had a wider application.

If the visitors of London examined with the dead and button, then the prospect of a one kiloton bomb going off in Piccadilly Circus might have done. This alternative scenario was proposed in *Equinox's* slightly more sober examination of the decrepit state of Russia's nuclear defences – systems that are possibly more dangerous now than they were during the most frigid stretches of the Cold War, constructed of 320 surface nuclear bombs and can now find only 40 of them. It's possible that those responsible for making them responsible placed less about how many they had produced – meadately about output being a venerable Soviet tradition – but it is more satisfactory to try to think them out there somewhere, being lugged around by some black-marketeer or opportunist criminal (John Richman for the film role). I wasn't sure either about the implication that the fuses in two-man launch procedure could be circumvented by opening giving another key – since a two-key system which allowed that would be utterly pointless.

More solidly unnerving was the general sense of despondency and disaffection in the Strategic Rocket Force, Russia's nuclear elite. Like explosives, explosives can be more dangerous when they become unstable, and the possibility of a disaster arising out of incompetence or indifference is a real one. But it would have been nice, given the importance of the subject matter in both cases, to have had documentaries with a larger element of serious critical analysis, and a smaller element of doomsday thriller

6.00 Business Breakfast (06532), 7.00 News (T) (06779).

8.00 All over the Shop (T) (S) (062022), 8.30 Kirby (T) (061050), 10.25 Style Challenge (S) (062050).

10.35 Stock Change (S) (064050), 11.00 News;

Foil (T) (S) (064232), 11.15 News; Regional News; (065754), 12.15 Cart Cook, Worl Cook (S) (T) (06225500), 14.00 News; Weather (T) (065315), 14.10 News; Regional News; (065754), 14.30 London Second Count (T) (06225500).

15.35 Children's BBC; Flipper (T) (064457), 3.40 Flavours (T) (064050), 4.00 Foodie (T) (S) (06225500), 4.10 To Me, to You (T) (06233650), 4.35 The Wild House (T) (06275900), 6.00 Newsround (S) (T) (06475389).

5.30 Record Breakers (T) (S) (T) (064050).

5.35 **Neighbours**, Billy decides to drop out of his course, Cain tells Nick and Harold discovers a love letter from Sarah to Karl (S) (T) (0684485).

6.00 **Newswatch** (T) (467).

6.30 **Newsroom South East**, Regional news magazine (T) (0677).

7.00 **Watchdog the Big Dinner**, Jonathan Maitland looks at the self-renewing of the local "By Royal Appointment" when it appears on food products (S) (T) (06775).

7.30 **Tomorrow's World**, featuring the low-noise, low-weight apparatus which allows divers to stay underwater for up to six hours. Meanwhile, Anya Stanhope means an Indian dreamer (S) (T) (0671).

8.00 **Only Fools and Horses**, An old school friend of Delius turns up (Cue old jokes) (P) (S) (T) (06753).

8.30 **Golf - the Open**, Steve Rider reports on the eve of the Open Championship from Royal St George's Golf Club.

9.00 **Levisham**, Millennium historian Felipe Fernandez-Armesto seeks to identify the single most important event in the history of the world and Queen Wilson relates (if that's the word) 40 years of British motorways (S) (T) (0673).

9.30 **Two Fat Ladies**, Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright prepare a picnicker picnic for the Colony.

9.30 **Looking Good**, Andrea Turner offers her opinions on how to pack a suitcase - a crucial assignment for a woman with such painful recent experiences of the woman (S) (0670).

9.00 **Officer and Gentleman Tales**, A six-part series on rural life in the Cumbrian village of Heby in North Kesteven. See *Documentary of the Day*, below (S) (T) (0674).

9.30 **Coronation Street**, Jim and Liz take a huge step, metaphorically speaking, while Sally is still being pursued by Greg (T) (0689).

8.00 **Catherine Cookson's The Gambling Man**, Schoen plays as a tribute to the writer, who died last month, under investigation when young Glasgow women is murdered (S) (T) (0673).

9.00 **Target**, "Dead Reckoning". The first of a new series of the gritty Glasgow police drama series. An outwardly respectable escort agency - that ran ring - comes under investigation when young Glasgow women is murdered (S) (T) (0673).

9.30 **Deadline 2000**, Dave Curry appeals on behalf of the almost-extinct harvest mouse (S) (T) (0674028).

8.00 **Black Box**, Ben is spied Jimmy, Jacqui a happy scouser. Meanwhile, surrogate mother Jacqueline attempts to sneak into Liverpool unnoticed (T) (02203).

8.30 **Deals on Wheels**, Mike Brewer sniffs out a bargain sale of wheels, and here are some on top to help buyers get the most for their money (T) (0675).

9.00 **Shawn's Big Adventure**, Jack is lonely. Elsa remains busy, and ex-gifted! Who are these people? (S) (T) (067560).

10.00 **News Weather** (T) (06872).

10.30 **London Tonight**, Regional news update (T) (021405).

10.40 **First Sign of Madness**, Repeated comedy-drama

monologue starring Pauline Quirke, Mel, a rather and companionable bistro, sees the supermarket ladies for potentially prize-winning labels (R) (S) (T) (06753).

11.15 **Ruby**, Clive James and Dominic Dunc... Spain. Their Tuesday night chat was just too precious and is preserved for the nation in its overplay show. A veritable waterbuffaloe, to coin a Pinteridism (S) (T) (024047).

12.00 **The Midwife** (7557), 12.30 **Chemistry of Creation** (1), 12.50 **100 The Chemistry of Life** (1), 06087, 1.30 **The Chemistry of Creativity** (1), 17.30, 2.00 **The Great Experience** (1), 18.10 **100 Word Cup** (French), **The Great Experience** (1), 13.16 **681858, 400 Word Business and Training**; **Whitbread**; **Growing Your Business** (462943), 5.45 **O!**; **Hannibal** (068687), 10.6am.

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

Drama of the Day

Film of the Day

CUMBERLAND TALES (8pm BBC2, right) *A Year in Proportion* meets *Lady Chatterley's Lover* as two of life's older bellflowers prepare to settle down in rural Cumbria. Ross, an advertising executive, is leaving London to marry Roddy, a farmer from Kendal, and Ruth Keen, tonight is all prelude to a wedding. The story is a real one. But it's the importance of the subject matter which justifies the humiliating beatings and oppressive discipline of his childhood as being "in the best interests of the family". In this open, the withdrawn Ruth finds himself alone, ill-equipped to take his three daughters and two sons. A gripping, rigidly unemotional piece with a stark, clinical edge. Can you imagine a drama without the encumbrance of period costume.



BLAZING SADDLES (11.30pm BBC1, right) The real-life story of the day Sir John Gilbert's unfeeling London landlords to Mr. and Mrs. Austin-Appleton and Ruth Sutcliffe, the couple who built the famous "McBride's Inn" in the Lake District. The inn, built in 1860, has a unique history, having been owned by the same family for over 100 years. The story follows the couple's journey from a simple cottage in the countryside to a successful hotel business. The film also explores the social and economic changes that occurred in the area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including the impact of the railway and the growth of tourism.

11.00 Compromising Situations, Late-night soft-porn which tamps Jack Doherty over further down the scrotum. A country singer (Dolores O'Riordan) finds herself in an old (friend) (S) (T) (067751).

11.40 The Jack Pudding Show (T) (0647573), 12.20 Major League Baseball – live (S) (0647514), 4.40 Mutual of Omaha's People (17.50572), 5.05 **Third** (T) (067754).

11.40 5 News and Sport (S) (0648531), 7.00 **Wednesday Night** (S) (T) (06205080), 7.30 **UK**, Dark boarding (S) (067850), 8.30 **Brighton Rock**, Richard Attenborough as a mechanic accused of murder (2253605).

11.40 The Three Stooges (15.58), 11.30 **Powerhouse** (T) (0645283), 12.00 **Sesame Street** (S) (068250), 12.30 **Today** (T) (0623870), 10.30 **The Other Side of Paradise** (S) (T) (0650870), 12.30 **Your Show (T)** (0677515).

11.40 The Wind Beneath My Wings (S) (067850), 8.30 **Hawkeye** (T) (0623750), 10.30 **Nobla Thoughts** (S) (067850), 9.30 **The Ozark Trail** (S) (067850), 10.30 **London Today** (T) (0677515), 1.30 **The Jerry Springer Show** (S) (T) (0677515), 2.00 **London Tonight** (T) (0677515), 2.45 **Homes and Away** (S) (T) (062151), 3.15 **ITV News Headlines** (T) (0630507), 3.20 **London** (T) (0677515).

11.40 The Big Breakfast (S) (T) (043487).

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